
TxDOT's four goals: Maintain a safe system, address congestion, connect Texas communities, and be a Best-in-Class state agency

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TXDOT INTENDS TO FUND AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES IN TEXAS TO ENSURE SAFETY FOR FLYING PUBLIC

Federal sequestration Eliminates Funding of Municipal Airport Air Traffic Controllers

AUSTIN – In an effort to ensure safety at 13 municipal airports in Texas, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) today said it intends to fund continued service of air traffic controllers when federal funding goes away as a result of sequestration. This action is pending Texas Transportation Commission approval and will be acted upon in an emergency session next week. The action would enable continued service for thirteen airports.

“Safety is the primary reason we felt a need to take immediate action for the flying public and business aircraft that use these airports,” said Fred Underwood, Texas Transportation Commissioner. “I am proud of our leaders for taking this extraordinary measure to ensure that those relying on these municipal airports will be able to depart and arrive safely and efficiently.”

“Flying is an integral part of commerce in Texas,” said Phil Wilson, Executive Director of TxDOT. “Local communities are counting on these airports to remain open for continued economic success.”

When automatic budget cuts from the federal government went into effect last month, Texas regional airports were caught in the cross hairs and were scheduled to lose funding for positions for air traffic control services beginning April 7. Had this funding not been considered, a degradation of safety in those flight operations could have occurred.

Airports that could receive state funding to continue safe operations include:

New Braunfels (BAZ), Brownsville (BRO), Easterwood Field College Station (CLL), TSTC Waco (CNW), Lone Star Executive Houston (CXO), Georgetown Muni (GTU), San Marcos Muni (HYI), Dallas Executive (RBD), Sugarland Regional (SGR), Stinson Muni San Antonio (SSF), Collin County Regional (TKI), Tyler Pounds Regional (TYR), Victoria Regional (VCT).

Grand Prairie Municipal and Fort Worth Spinks remain funded under a federal agreement until September 30, 2013.

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