



October 18, 2023

Northern Colorado Regional Airport Remote Tower Project Paused - Controlled Airspace to Continue



A view above the center camera mast for the Northern Colorado Regional Airport (FNL) Remote Tower Project. While the project is being paused, controlled airspace will continue at the airport.

LOVELAND - Since 2015, the Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT) Division of Aeronautics (State), the Northern Colorado Regional Airport (FNL), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have been collaborating on an innovative effort to bring remote air traffic control tower technology to FNL and Colorado. This technology uses video cameras and other sensing technologies to emulate the operational safety and efficiency benefits of a traditional air traffic control tower but with additional flexibility and capabilities at a much lower capital and operational cost than a traditional air traffic control tower.

In 2018, the FAA selected Searidge Technologies of Ottawa, Canada to be the remote tower technology provider at FNL, and in March 2020, a mobile air traffic control tower was installed in advance of a structured testing and evaluation program to eventually certify and operate a permanent remote tower at FNL. Unfortunately, a number of circumstances have occurred that have impacted the program, including the COVID-19 pandemic and related multi-year FAA travel restrictions, as well as continually changing FAA standards for remote tower certification. As a result, Searidge Technologies has advised the FAA that they will terminate work on the FNL remote tower program.

As this transition occurs over the next several weeks, the state, FNL, and the FAA will collaborate on a new path forward that preserves existing air traffic control services at FNL for the foreseeable future. During this time, future options will be evaluated for continued development of the remote tower facility at FNL as well as potential options for a traditional air traffic control tower. Significant interest exists from other remote tower technology providers to continue development at FNL, and the state and FNL will be working closely with the FAA to explore this option as the preferred alternative.

"While we are disappointed to see Searidge leave the remote tower program, we remain optimistic that the cost-effective benefits of remote tower technology will have tremendous value to Colorado's future aviation system, and we intend to vigorously support future development of the technology," said CDOT's Aeronautics Director David Ulane.

"FNL has a well-deserved reputation for innovation, safety, and development and the Remote Tower is a great example of that focus. The Remote Tower has already provided an exceptional, innovative pathway to meet the operational demands of our growing airport in a safe, cost-effective, and timely way," said David Ruppel, Northern Colorado Regional Airport interim director. "While this news is unfortunate, we are

confident that with the FAA's ongoing support, CDOT's commitment to this project and our airport, as well as interest from other highly qualified vendors, we will be able to carry this effort forward."

For more information please contact:

Dave Ruppel, Interim Airport Manager
Northern CO Regional Airport
970.962.2850 | David.Ruppel@cityofloveland.org

David Ulane, Director
Colorado Division of Aeronautics
303.512.5254 | David.Ulane@state.co.us

Under the Direction of the Colorado Aeronautical Board, the Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics supports Colorado's multi-modal transportation system by advancing a safe, efficient, and effective statewide air and space system through collaboration, investment, and advocacy. In partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration, 76 public-use airports, and a diverse group of aviation system users, the Division also works to promote aviation safety and education through the efficient administration of the Colorado Aviation Fund.

FNL is a commercially certified regional airport supporting over 110,000 annual flight operations, with over 200 hangars and over 300 based aircraft. It is one of 14 commercial airports in Colorado and has not only supported numerous commercial airlines in the past but with the addition of a new Terminal, wider runways, and the future certification of the Remote Tower system will continue to be the transportation hub for Northern Colorado. FNL supports over 1,072 jobs, \$51,914,000 in annual payroll, and \$160,874,000 in Business revenue.



COLORADO
Aeronautical Board

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December 13, 2023

1:00 p.m.

General Meeting

[Colorado Division of Aeronautics](#)



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Colorado Division of Aeronautics | 5126 Front Range Parkway | Watkins, CO 80137 | 303.512.5250
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