

B. Forecasts of Aviation Activity

Forecasting is a key element in the terminal area planning process. The forecasts are essential for analyzing existing airport and terminal area facilities and identifying future needs and requirements of the facilities. While a forecasting effort was completed for the *2009 Airport Master Plan Update*, it was based on 2007 operations and enplanement levels and a number of important changes in air service have since transpired at the Airport including changes in air carriers and changes in the commercial aircraft fleet mix. Consequently, this forecast chapter seeks to build upon and revise the 2009 forecasts for the Airport.

Forecasting, by its very nature, is not exact, but it does establish some general parameters for development and provides a defined rationale for various development activities as demands increase. The amount and kind of aviation activity occurring at an airport are dependent upon many factors, but are usually reflective of the services available to aircraft operators, the local/regional demand for commercial passenger services, the meteorological conditions under which the airport operates (daily and seasonally), the businesses located on the airport or within the community the airport serves, and the general economic conditions prevalent within the surrounding area.

Aviation activity forecasting generally commences by utilizing the present time as an initial point, supplemented with historical trends obtained from previous years' activity and recorded information. This data has evolved from a comprehensive examination of historical airport records provided by airport staff, *Colorado Airport System Plan, 2005*, FAA Form 5010-1 data, *FAA Terminal Area Forecasts*, and the *FAA Aerospace Forecasts Fiscal Years 2010-2030*. These documents were assembled in different years, making the base year data quite variable, and emphasizing the need for establishing a well-defined and well-documented set of historical information from which to project future aviation activity trends.