



Routine Airport Maintenance Program Texas Aviation Conference April 13, 2023 3:30 PM

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I Want To... Use RAMP Funds



Aviation Division

What is RAMP?

TxDOT administers the Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP), which matches local government grants up to \$50,000 per airport for maintenance to eligible airside and landside airport asset/infrastructure needs. Funds are available per fiscal year with Texas Transportation Commission approval. TxDOT's fiscal year begins on September 1st, and the local government match is 50% of actual costs plus any excess of \$100,000 in total costs.

RAMP includes lower cost airside and landside airport improvements and requires guidance and approval from TxDOT's Aviation Division before the expenses are incurred. Improvements can be routine maintenance as well as new or additional items of work. Examples include but are not limited to general airfield pavement maintenance, construction of airport entrance roads, pavement of airport public parking lots, installation of security fencing, and replacement of rotating beacons. TxDOT's Aviation Division will determine the eligibility of items.

Remember: airside improvements are the priority before requesting assistance with landside maintenance and improvements.



What is Eligible for RAMP Funds?

Below is brief list of some items that are available for RAMP funding:

Airside:

- ✓ Pavement: crack sealing, rehab, markings, sweeping, rubber removal
- ✓ Runway and taxiway lighting (MIRLs, REILs)
- ✓ Runway, taxiway, and RPZ maintenance
- ✓ AWOS maintenance
- ✓ Herbicide along edges of airside pavement
- ✓ Drainage maintenance

Landside:

- ✓ New paint inside terminal building
- ✓ New terminal security system
- ✓ Hangar construction
- ✓ Aircraft fueling systems and filters
- ✓ Repair and maintenance of existing fencing for security and safety

A more comprehensive list of eligible and ineligible items can be found on TxDOT's RAMP website. The Aviation Division can also assist with the determination of eligible items on a case-by-case basis and has a helpful flyer with a detailed list of eligible items, available on request.



Conditions



A grant must be executed each state fiscal year, September 1st – August 31st, prior to work being performed. Additionally, work as described on the scope of services of the grant shall be performed during the state fiscal year.

Sponsors are allowed to issue their own contracts for scope of services, or TxDOT districts can perform services within their capabilities. However, TxDOT will not participate in contracts for ineligible scope items or for costs that are unreasonable for the type of service. TxDOT will also not reimburse for expenses that are not airside if an airport's airside needs are not addressed first.



Submitting Grants and Requesting Reimbursements

There is currently no formal application process for requesting RAMP funds. At the beginning of each state fiscal year, grants are automatically sent to Sponsors that are current participants in the program. Additional grants are sent when requested by the airport.

To initiate a new grant:

- Sponsors should contact the Aviation Division directly, or contact the district's RAMP coordinator
- Include a description of the project(s) for which the grant is being requested
- Include estimated costs, if available
- Contact may be in the form of a written letter, e-mail, a phone call, or face-to-face with a member of the Aviation Division staff

Once a RAMP grant is executed, RAMP Grant Payments, also known as Request for Reimbursements (RFR) can be initiated through IGX. Submit both a Completed Summary of Expenses form and any supporting invoices or receipts for eligible projects/expenses dated after the grant is executed by the state. The Aviation Division has a helpful guide, available on request, with instructions and screen captures to assist with submitting requests through IGX.

Please note that TxDOT does NOT need any of the following when reimbursements are submitted:

- Copies of payment checks
- Copies of purchase orders
- Copies of quotations or estimates



At A Glance

Ineligibility

Not all items are eligible. A brief list of ineligible items includes equipment purchases or vehicle maintenance and purchases, non-airside lighting, tree trimming and landscape, utility bills, recurring inspections, permits, and certifications, computer and office supplies, décor, and other operating expenses.

It is also important to note that work performed and/or purchases made prior to your grant being fully executed will be considered ineligible.

Sponsor force work account is not eligible, but the purchase of materials for construction with sponsor labor is eligible.

TxDOT Aviation can provide you with a more comprehensive list of ineligible items.

New to RAMP in FY 2024

Flight/operations monitoring software will be allowable for reimbursement up to 90% of eligible costs within the standard requirements of RAMP grants (currently eligible up to 50%). TxDOT will be pursuing an amendment to RAMP so that in the one year leading up to a planning study that will involve analyses requiring operations counts, forecasts, fleet mix, and critical aircraft, reimbursement will be allowable up to 90% of eligible costs of such a system.

A key aspect, however, is that TxDOT must have access to the data for the entire period of time during which reimbursement is being requested. This amendment is in process and TxDOT Aviation will keep sponsors informed of the progress.

Eligible and Ineligible Work Items Under RAMP



AIRSIDE MAINTENANCE
Pavement crack sealing/Pavement Slurry Seal/Fog Seal/Rejuvenator
Pavement markings
Drainage maintenance
Sweeping
Herbicide on airside pavement
Replacement bulbs/lamps for airside lighting fixtures and approach aids
Repair and maintenance for beacon, lighting, approach and navigational aids
Parts replacement for Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) not covered under warranty
AFTER AIRSIDE MAINTENANCE HAS BEEN ADDRESSED
Seal coats/chip seal/crack seal for non-airside pavement
Hangar/terminal building painting and repairs -sponsor owned facilities only
Security camera systems excluding monitoring fees
Game proof or security fencing and gates, electric gate openers
Access roads for AWOS installations/AWOS NADIN interface monthly charge
Airport entrance signs
Repairs to airport owned fuel systems, including replacement of tanks
Professional Services for preparation of Storm Water Pollution Prevention, Spill Prevention Control & Countermeasure Plans and maintenance/update of these plans
Airfield FOD sweeper
HVAC repairs in terminal building and/or control tower
SMALL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS – with guidance from TxDOT Aviation
Design and construct new concrete/asphalt public auto parking areas
Design and construct new entrance roads and hangar access roads
Design and construction of aircraft wash racks as indicated by SWPPP
Design and construct expansion of apron areas or new apron areas
Design and construct runway lighting system extensions
Design and construct drainage improvements
Pilot lounge/small general aviation terminal buildings
Beacon/tower replacements
Preparation of FAA form 7460-1 “Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration” for RAMP projects



INELIGIBLE WORK ITEMS UNDER RAMP GRANTS
Purchase of a courtesy vehicle and/or maintenance to any vehicle or equipment including tractors and mowers
Purchase of capital equipment including aircraft dolly, lawn mower, golf carts, snow/ice removal equipment, striping machines and power washers
Operating expenditures including carpet cleaning, monthly utility bills, tree trimming/mowing services, trash collection/recycling
Force Account work by sponsor
Consumables including batteries (except for AWOS), air and water filters, interior light bulbs, cleaning supplies, replacement plants, replacement monitors/computer equipment for office operations and for AWOS
<i>Work performed or purchases made prior to the grant being fully executed</i>





What are Auditors Looking At?

- ✓ Is item/project RAMP eligible?
- ✓ Did my expenditures come after agreement was executed?
- ✓ Do I have documentation?
- ✓ Can I justify the reimbursement?



- RAMP Spent 2022: \$4.9m
- Future Enhancement: Airside vs Non Airside, Illustration of those costs and where \$ is being spent.
- Operations Monitoring Equipment now eligible under RAMP
 - ✓ TxDOT's Aviation Division encourages the installation of an aircraft operations counting system
 - ✓ Airport operations counts are essential for development, planning, and improvement, including the process of project evaluation and selection and allocating funds for those purposes
 - ✓ Help improve funding allocations, along with planning and development assessments
 - ✓ The State desires to offer reimbursement through RAMP for the purchase and subscription costs of such systems, with the provision that the data collected is provided to the State



Future eGrants

- Release new version of eGrants coming – IGX
- Training and all pertinent information forthcoming
- Update - Electronic RAMP submission, Removing Option 2
- Illustrating Costs – Airside vs Landside

Newsletter

- Email Newsletter
 - ✓ Key Dates
 - ✓ Updates





Thank you!

Helpful Links

TxDOT Main Website: www.txdot.gov

Routine Airport Maintenance Program Contacts: <https://www.txdot.gov/business/grants-and-funding/routine-airport-maintenance-program-ramp.html>

RAMP Program Description: https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/avn/ramp_grants.pdf