

CJG



William Cass, P.E.  
Commissioner

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



David Rodrigue, P.E.  
Assistant Commissioner  
Michelle L. Winters,  
Deputy Commissioner

6  
JAN 07 2026

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
and the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Executive Office  
November 14, 2025

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the Department of Transportation to **retroactively** pay membership dues in the amount of \$9,857.80 for the period of October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, to the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), Washington, DC, (Vendor Code 169076) for membership in the national aviation organization, from the date of Governor and Council approval through September 30, 2026. 100% General Funds.

Funding is available as follows:	<u>FY 2026</u>
04-96-96-964010-2107 Aeronautics	
026-500251 Organizational Dues	\$9,857.80

**EXPLANATION**

This request is **retroactive** due to a delay in obtaining the attached invoice prior to October 1, 2025, due to staffing changes at NASAO.

There are 50 states and two (2) territories eligible to be members of NASAO. Membership in NASAO ensures New Hampshire's voice and input on national issues affecting aviation matters and funding is well-represented and amplified. Additionally, discounted training and registration costs are included in this membership along with opportunities to participate in member meetings, webinars, and teleconferences at no cost to the State. There are resources available for *member* states to assist in furthering education in aviation, including being a member of an Aviation Education subcommittee that shares information and tools to assist in providing opportunities in aviation for K-12 and college students. New Hampshire Department of Education's *Learn Everywhere* program was introduced to other state members of NASAO as a cutting-edge program perfect for bringing aviation programs to high school students. Sharing this information highlights the excellence of New Hampshire in aviation education.

Membership in NASAO is not required to receive funding from the Federal government, but it does provide good, advanced communications regarding funding opportunities that may be available nationwide. Given all the change at the national level, the collective organized coordination and communication between the states has become more important to stay informed and engaged with other states, and to having instant access to experienced and knowledgeable NASAO staff is another valuable benefit with real, but incalculable dividends.

NASAO is a non-profit, non-partisan association that plays an important role in helping to develop and maintain civil aviation systems that can safely and effectively serve the needs of the citizens of the State of NH and the nation. NASAO's role in civil aviation is critical for continuing to work with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of the 50 states to ensure adequate Federal funding of the Airport Improvement Program and the continuation of the State Block Grant Program (New Hampshire is a Block Grant State), appropriate General

Aviation airport investments, and beneficial state apportionments. The cooperation and mutual aid among the 50 states and two U.S. territories, through NASAO, and the Federal government has been instrumental in developing uniformity and minimizing duplication of efforts. The Department has benefitted from participation in NASAO events, including regularly scheduled virtual meetings for both NASAO and its Block Grant Subcommittee and annual NASAO meetings and conferences. Most importantly, the Department now has a “seat at the FAA table” to negotiate State Block Grant Program agreements, which benefits the State of NH by ensuring that the state’s airports receive the best service from our federal partners and the funding they deserve to maintain safe infrastructure.

Listed below are the answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?

*The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) was chartered in 1931. The Department, previously the Aeronautics Commission, had been a member of NASAO for over 50 years, but this membership ceased in 2013 due to funding limitations. During that time, the Department was cut off from coordinated discussions with the 50 states and lacked the ability to understand the national issues and to respond to them. The Department reinstated its membership in 2024 but was unable to pay the membership last year due to timing of the invoice and coordinated response time.*

*The Department had limited coordination with NASAO and the other states in 2025, with the exception of the State Block Grant Program (SBGP) subcommittee. NH is one of 10 SBG states that act on behalf of the FAA for the general aviation airports in the state. Programming, planning, and engineering of airport infrastructure, land/easement acquisition, environmental and equipment purchasing is coordinated and process through the NHDOT, Bureau of Aeronautics.*

*An example of a lost opportunity, the Airport Engineering subcommittee group just met with FAA Headquarters to discuss FAA Order 5100.38D (current version), regarding the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Handbook and NH did not attend this meeting. The AIP handbook is FAA policy that is required to be followed to be in compliance with all FAA grant conditions and assurances. Having a seat at the table would have benefited the State of NH to ensure the policy being developed did not hinder or limit the development of the state’s airports in any way. This meeting was the first of its kind regarding the AIP handbook that was coordinated by NASAO to have a seat at the table.*

2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits that your agency belongs to?

*NASAO is the only organization that represents the collective interests of the states and the public on aviation issues; there are no other organizations that provide these aviation benefits to the Department or State of NH.*

3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

*NASAO represents all 50 U.S. states. The Department is the only NH state agency that would be a member.*

4. How is the due’s structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)

*The annual membership dues are prescribed by NASAO and are not prescribed at a flat rate. The state’s share of the annual NASAO operating cost is assessed annually based on a population and Consumer Price Index (CPI) formula determined by the NASAO Board of Directors and approved by the members.*

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

*While there are no major direct major financial gains to be a member of NASAO, there are member discounts applied to conferences and educational material hosted and provided by NASAO.*

*NASAO plays an important role in helping to develop and maintain civil aviation systems that can safely and effectively serve the needs of the citizens of the states. NASAO's role in civil aviation is critical for continuing to work with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on behalf of the states, and US territories, to ensure adequate Federal funding of the Airport Improvement Program and the continuation of the State Block Grant Program, appropriate General Aviation airport investments, and beneficial state apportionments. NASAO has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FAA to foster cooperation and mutual support among the states, federal and local governments to be responsive to the regional, state and national needs in support of the National Air Transportation System. NASAO works collaboratively with the FAA in the development of aviation rules and regulations by incorporating the needs of the states. In addition to working with the FAA, NASAO works with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to develop safety regulations and guidelines to protect general aviation airports.*

*The organization and collaboration between the states is the biggest non-monetary benefit of being a part of NASAO. Without the membership the Department staff must research and collect information on their own without collective weigh-in by the other states. There are many NASAO subcommittees that quickly provide the latest on national and regional issues to its member states.*

*The State of New Hampshire was a major participant in developing the SBGP Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with FAA to manage the FAA AIP Program. The MOA was stalled for over 8 years, however, once the State Block Grant states worked together as a collective, led by NH and the State of Texas, the states collectively rejected the FAA- presented MOA that did not serve the states and airports in the block grant program; the states then worked with FAA, over a short period of time, to develop a MOA that would be more beneficial to the states and the airports they serve. NASAO coordinated and administratively managed this effort, but if NH had not been a dues-paying member the state would not have had a seat at the negotiation table. NH would have then had to rely on the other states to negotiate the final MOA that would then be required to enter into to receive FAA funding. The MOA is a living document and is reviewed yearly to continue to collaborate with FAA as a partner in managing the FAA AIP program.*

*Up to 75 seats for Department staff are included with the cost of membership. Typically, the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Director of Aeronautics, Rail and Transit and the entire Bureau of Aeronautics may receive all membership benefits.*

6. Are training or educational/research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

*The cost for research and information materials from NASAO, the other 50 states and two U.S. territories are included with the membership fee. Training costs and registration discounts are included in this membership fee. NASAO members can also partake in (free) member meetings, webinars, and teleconferences. NASAO offers more than 30 courses and up to 75 seats for Department staff are included with the cost of membership.*

7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.

*This membership is not required to receive federal grants, participate in licensing or certification of exams; however, membership benefits, including training, conferences, meetings and regularly disseminated information about discretionary funding opportunities that would help the state better prepare for and compete for such funding opportunities. Not being a member would put the State of NH at a disadvantage when applying for certain discretionary aviation funds as they become available; the member states and other partners routinely discuss funding opportunities, the eligibility requirements, and information to assist in grant applications.*

8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel including the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination of known and purposes of membership-supported trips.

*Travel costs are not included in this membership, but there are NASAO annual meetings, conferences, and training held throughout the US, in addition to web-based opportunities; host locations and frequency of in-person attendance can vary year-to-year based on several factors. Discount registration fees are available for conferences. Several meals are included in the registration fees.*

9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and /or officers of the organization).

*The Director of Aeronautics, Rail and Transit, or their representative, would be a voting member of NASAO. (Note: the Director is also a member of the NASAO Airport Block Grant Program Committee.) Additionally, all seven (7) fulltime personnel within the Bureau of Aeronautics would also benefit from and would be eligible to participate in various NASAO meetings, conferences, and activities. In fact, up to 75 seats for Department staff are included with the cost of membership and the Department's Deputy Commissioner was an active participant in the past.*

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the state if the Agency did not belong to this organization.

*Should the Department continue to not be a member of NASAO, New Hampshire would not have a vote in aviation initiatives set forth by NASAO, and the other participating states and U.S. territories, which include actions involving the FAA and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Additionally, the Department will not receive timely information regarding federal funding, regulations, security, and all other aviation matters for which NASAO members receive a weekly members-only electronic newsletter (NASAO Briefs) which provides industry updates, a round-up of state aviation issues, etc. The Department will also not be able to participate in the joint NASAO/FAA teleconferences or other NASAO-sponsored events that provide insights into national-level rulemaking, legislation, policy, and products and networking opportunities amongst members to discuss issues and solve problems.*

In closing, given the current state of aviation and the immediate focus of maintaining the safety of the system and ensuring that the flying public can trust this efficient mode of transportation, collective coordination between the states through NASAO is essential. New Hampshire's system of airports cannot operate in a silo; there must be connectivity and coordination with airports nationwide.

In addition to managing the existing aviation system, the aviation industry is currently on the brink of a major beneficial technological change. The next generation of aircraft are currently being designed to serve a different facet of aviation need than what currently exists today. FAA is currently working on separating airspace to accommodate these aircraft which fall under the umbrella term called **Advance Air Mobility (AAM)**. AAM are aircraft that are typically automated, electrically, or powered by other means and have a vertical take-off and landing capability. AAM aircraft will be the next exciting phase of aviation where they can be used to transport cargo, including medical supplies, and passengers, help with firefighting and provide search and rescue operations.

While initially AAM operations will use existing infrastructure like airports and public and private heliports (with modifications), an entirely new infrastructure will need to be developed for this system to operate efficiently meeting the needs of the next generation transportation. A vertiport design (similar to a heliport), with associated systems (electrification chargers or other energy sources) will be the infrastructure required which will be designed and located in strategic locations in communities for fast efficient transport of people and goods. AAM, similar to the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (drones), technology is evolving faster than the infrastructure development and the regulatory environment can keep up. To strategically position the State of NH to be ready

for this new technological aviation advancement in the near future, connecting to other states through NASAO would be beneficial to the transportation system and the people of NH.

Your approval of this resolution is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Cass".

William J. Cass, P.E.  
Commissioner

Attachments

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION OFFICIALS**

1390 Chain Bridge Road  
#A106  
McLean, VA 22101  
(202) 925-7345



BILL TO
New Hampshire Department of Transportation Bureau of Aeronautics, Rail and Transit John O. Morton Building, 7 Hazen Drive, PO Box 483 Concord, NH 03302-0483 ATTN: Michelle Winters

## Invoice

DATE	INVOICE #
11/14/2025	M1089-26

DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
NASAO Membership October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026		9857.80	9857.80
		<b>Total</b>	\$9,857.80
		<b>Payments/Credits</b>	\$0.00
		<b>Balance Due</b>	\$9,857.80

SEPTEMBER 2025



Dear State Director:

Thank you for your continued engagement as a valued member of NASAO! Attached please find your NASAO dues invoice for 2025-2026. As you know, the year before last, at the Annual Meeting of the States our membership agreed to look to the future and approve a 5% increase in the annual dues. For the coming year, dues will remain the same, but we anticipate a small increase for 2026-2027, so please plan accordingly.

With your active engagement and financial support, NASAO's team of officers and staff have continued to build our Association as a recognized and respected voice on national aviation policy, while providing valuable services to you as a member. We have increased our visibility on Capitol Hill, in the FAA, and within the aviation community, and our effective engagement with federal policymakers has grown in value and effectiveness.

NASAO continues to host informative and engaging events that have been well-attended by state members and other aviation stakeholders. Our Washington Conference last February set another record for attendance, and our 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Anchorage will be also be extremely well attended and productive. We are busy planning the 2026 Washington Conference taking place February 25-27, 2026, and our 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention next September in Grand Forks, North Dakota. We are also pleased to have had the opportunity to partner with the FAA, NASA, and several of our Business Partners to bring you webinars on topics of contemporary interest. We look forward to continuing to enhance these events to best serve your needs.

NASAO's communications to you continue to be a priority for our team. In addition to the weekly *NASAO Brief*, we have also worked hard to bring you timely updates on policy issues and our advocacy through our *Legislative Alerts*. The team also makes every effort to be available to you for all our NASAO Committee meetings and regional teleconferences. We've also been able to visit a few of you for your state aviation conferences. We're also excited about the continuing growth of our Airport Partners Program

Of course, our greatest strength remains your active participation and engagement. We are excited that so many of you take on active roles in your Association... as officers, regional directors, and committee members. We are also pleased that many of you give your staff the opportunity to participate as well. Remember, NASAO remains the only association solely dedicated to serving you and your colleagues working in state aviation. Our work together ensures the future is one in which state perspectives on the important issues are heard and understood; and that the policies we support, and all the initiatives we undertake, better enable states to perform their critical role in the aviation system.

We look forward to another great year, and your continuing participation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Pecoraro", written in a cursive style.

Gregory Pecoraro  
NASAO President & CEO

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION OFFICIALS