



## **Arapahoe County Public Airport Authority Unleaded Aviation Fuel Transition Plan**

**Plan Prepared: October 2025**

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## **Introduction:**

Centennial Airport (APA) is a public-use national reliever airport located in Englewood, Colorado, and is owned and operated by the Arapahoe County Public Airport Authority (ACPAA). Situated approximately 12 miles southeast of downtown Denver, Centennial Airport is recognized as one of the nation's busiest general aviation airports, serving as a vital hub for a wide range of aviation activities. The airport supports a diverse mix of users and operations, including medical evacuation and air ambulance services, military and Department of Defense missions, flight training, research and development, corporate and business aviation, charter services, and air cargo operations.

Spanning portions of both Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, Centennial Airport is home to more than 125 businesses, and it is estimated that over 9,200 jobs in the region are connected to its operations. Centennial Airport strives to be a global leader in sustainability by balancing economic vitality, operational efficiency, social responsibility, and environmental stewardship. The airport has been at the forefront of sustainability initiatives, including efforts to promote cleaner aviation fuels. In 2023, Centennial Airport became the first in the state to offer Swift Fuels UL94 Unleaded AvGas for retail sale, made possible through a partnership with one of our Fixed Base Operators (FBOs), jetCenters of Colorado. This partnership has also been successful with 2 of our flight school partners, Aspen Flying Club and Centennial Flyers who are the largest users of UL94 on airport.

As of October 2025, Centennial Airport remains the only airport in Colorado offering Unleaded AvGas. With support from the provisions of HB24-1235, the airport continues to make available a variety of incentives to encourage the use of UL94 fuel in compatible aircraft. Since its introduction, UL94 represents approximately 19% of total AvGas sales at APA. Centennial Airport intends to continue advancing sustainable practices and promoting the adoption of cleaner aviation fuels wherever feasible. While future plans may evolve, the airport's long-term objective is to facilitate a full transition away from leaded aviation gasoline once a viable fleetwide drop-in replacement becomes available in advance of any federal phaseout mandates. The airport strives to be on the forefront of adoption and lead the transition away from leaded AvGas.

## **Based Aircraft Analysis:**

Centennial Airport is home to approximately 870 based aircraft. Of these, 562 are single-engine propeller aircraft, 87 are multi-engine propeller aircraft, 193 are jets, and 28 are helicopters. To estimate the number of aircraft potentially eligible to utilize Unleaded AvGas, a review was conducted of the 613 single and multi-engine propeller aircraft based at Centennial Airport. The remaining 36 single and multi-engine propeller aircraft not included in the analysis are equipped with turbo-prop engines which utilize Jet-A Fuel. The 613 aircraft were compared against the Swift Fuels UL94 Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) Database to determine compatibility.

This analysis represents an informed estimate and is not intended to be definitive. It assumes that each aircraft retains its factory-original engine configuration and has not undergone any engine modifications or conversions. For experimental or homebuilt aircraft, it is similarly assumed that each aircraft is equipped with the manufacturer’s recommended engine type. Actual eligibility may vary based on specific aircraft configurations, maintenance histories, and operator choices. It is assumed that once a viable fleetwide drop-in replacement becomes available 100% of the single and multi-engine piston aircraft will use the fuel.

The table below provides a summary of the results of this aircraft eligibility assessment:

<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>UL94 Eligible Count</b>
<b>Total Single and Multi-Engine Piston Aircraft</b>	613
<b>Potentially UL94 Eligible</b>	395
<b>Fleet Percentage Potentially UL94 Eligible</b>	64%
<b>Future Drop In Replacement Eligible</b>	613
<b>Future Drop In Percentage Eligible</b>	100%

The table below details the current status of STC’d aircraft on the airport:

<b>Aircraft</b>	<b>UL94 Count</b>
<b>Potentially UL94 Eligible</b>	395
<b>Count of STC’d Aircraft</b>	105
<b>Percentage of Eligible Aircraft STC’d</b>	27%

### **Incentive Programs:**

Prior to the passage of HB24-1235, Centennial Airport independently invested approximately \$304,000 in fuel subsidies and Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) reimbursements to support the voluntary adoption of unleaded aviation fuel. In 2024, Centennial Airport became the first

airport to receive a \$300,000 Unleaded Fuel Transition Grant from the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Division of Aeronautics. A second grant, in the amount of \$350,000, was awarded by the Division of Aeronautics in 2025.

Airport funds are used to support one primary incentive program:

- **STC Reimbursement Program:** The Arapahoe County Public Airport Authority (ACPAA) offers reimbursement of up to \$110 to aircraft owners or operators for obtaining a Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) that enables the use of Unleaded AvGas in eligible aircraft. This reimbursement is currently available to based flight schools and aircraft owners. To date, ACPAA has reimbursed the cost of 105 individual STCs.

The funds from these grants and previous airport investments are used to support another primary subsidy programs, with a second informational effort related to state incentives:

- **Fuel Price Offset Program:** ACPAA covers the cost difference between 100LL AvGas and UL94 AvGas, allowing the unleaded fuel to be offered at a price equivalent to 100LL. This price support is intended to encourage voluntary use of unleaded fuel. Over the duration of the program, the price difference has averaged approximately \$1.65 per gallon.
- **State Incentives:** ACPAA will provide information to based operators and tenants regarding the available income tax credit offered by the State of Colorado for the purchase of unleaded aviation fuel STC's.

The purpose of these efforts is to help accelerate the transition toward the broader use of unleaded aviation gasoline while maintaining flexibility for aircraft owners and operators. Additional details regarding communication and outreach methods are provided in the following section.

## **Outreach & Engagement:**

This plan will be regularly shared with based Flight Schools and FBO's, with ongoing discussions centered around the airport's phased transition from leaded to unleaded aviation fuel. Centennial Airport recognizes that a successful transition requires proactive communication, coordination, and education among all airport stakeholders.

The airport has conducted regular outreach efforts through social media posts, informational flyers distributed throughout the airport, digital signage updates, and website updates that inform based tenants and operators about the availability of UL94 and the financial incentives available to support its use. These outreach methods will continue to expand as additional information becomes available, ensuring all tenants remain informed of progress, fuel supply availability, and upcoming transition milestones.

The unleaded fuel transition at Centennial Airport is regularly discussed at the required quarterly Flight School Safety & Noise Abatement Meetings, as well as regular meetings of the Centennial Airport Community Noise Roundtable (CACNR). This effort ensures not only users are informed of the program but also the broader community.

Additionally, Centennial Airport has integrated information about the unleaded fuel transition and incentive programs into its annual Gate Access Renewal process, ensuring every based tenant has received direct communication about the program.

As required under Colorado House Bill 24-1235, the airport's Unleaded Fuel Transition Plan will be formally submitted to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and will be made publicly accessible through the airport's website. Transparency remains a key objective, and the airport will continue to provide regular updates as the transition advances.

When appropriate, airport staff will supplement digital and print outreach with face-to-face meetings or written correspondence to ensure understanding, gather feedback, and address specific operational or technical concerns related to unleaded fuel adoption. Through this multi-channel communication strategy, Centennial Airport reaffirms its commitment to environmental stewardship, community engagement, and safe, efficient aviation operations throughout the transition to unleaded fuel.

## **Fuel Infrastructure:**

Centennial Airport is served by five FBO locations: Signature Aviation North, Signature Aviation South, jetCenters of Colorado, Modern Aviation, and The Heliplex. As of October 2025, four of the five FBOs, with the exception of The Heliplex, currently dispenses 100LL AvGas. Each FBO maintains its own fueling infrastructure, including bulk fuel storage facilities and mobile fuel tanker trucks. Signature Aviation North owns and operates the airport's only self-serve 100LL AvGas pump, which provides an additional refueling option for based and transient aircraft operators.

The ACPAA does not control or dictate when or how any FBO elects to transition existing infrastructure to accommodate unleaded aviation fuel. Decisions regarding upgrades, replacements, or fuel transitions remain at the discretion of the individual FBOs. However, the Airport Authority may, when feasible, support such initiatives through information-sharing and potential access to local funding opportunities or grant programs designed to advance voluntary adoption of unleaded fuel.

The tables below summarize the FBOs' existing infrastructure, and the potential unleaded fuel storage and distribution capacities that could be supported. All current and future fueling systems are expected to remain FBO-owned and FBO-operated. Any additional or replacement infrastructure would be funded by the respective FBOs, with the possibility of supplementary financial support from the Airport Authority where appropriate.

At present, jetCenters of Colorado is the only FBO on the field that dispenses Swift Fuels UL94 Unleaded AvGas. JetCenters distributes UL94 via a 1,000-gallon tanker truck and maintains a 30,000-gallon underground storage tank dedicated to UL94 fuel. The charts below provide detailed information on each FBO’s existing fuel farm location and capacities as well as fuel truck capacities.

**Figure 1: FBO AvGas Fuel Farm Capacities:**

FBO	Fuel Farm	Current 100LL Capacity	Current UL94 Capacity	Future Unleaded Fuel Capacity
Signature North	Self-Serve	1,000 gal.	-	1,000 gal.
	R&B Farm	10,000 gal.	-	10,000 gal.
jetCenters of Colorado	West Farm	-	30,000 gal.	30,000 gal.
	East Farm	30,000 gal.	-	30,000 gal.
Signature South	Main Farm	10,000 gal.	-	10,000 gal.
Modern Aviation	Main Farm	-	-	-
<b>Total:</b>	-	51,000 gal.	30,000 gal.	81,000 gal.

**Figure 2: FBO AvGas Fuel Truck Capacities:**

FBO	No. of AvGas Trucks	Current 100LL Truck Capacity	Current UL94 Truck Capacity	Future Unleaded Fuel Truck Capacity
Signature North	2	4,200 gal.	-	4,200 gal.
jetCenters of Colorado	3	1,750 gal.	1,000	2,750 gal.
Signature South	1	1,000 gal.	-	1,000 gal.
Modern Aviation	1	750 gal.	-	750 gal.
<b>Total:</b>	7	7,700 gal.	1,000 gal.	8,700 gal.

## Plan Timeline:

The following outlines a few key dates that are relevant to the anticipated implementation of this plan. These dates are intended to provide a general framework for planning and coordination purposes. All timelines should be considered provisional and may be adjusted as conditions evolve. As such, the deadlines identified below are subject to change based on the state of the industry, FBO needs/decisions, and any applicable federal guidelines or mandates. The airport’s objective is to make a full transition away from leaded fuel by the date below or once a viable fleetwide drop-in replacement becomes available.

Retail Unleaded AvGas Available: May 3, 2023

Proposed Current Fuel Infrastructure Conversion: December 31, 2028

## **Plan Updates:**

At a minimum, this plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it remains accurate, relevant, and aligned with the most current information, regulations, and industry best practices related to the transition to Unleaded AvGas. Moreover, this plan will be reviewed to ensure it aligns with current airport sustainability objectives.

Following each review and update, the revised plan will be shared and published using the communication methods outlined in the Outreach & Engagement section. This includes updates posted on the airport's official website, social media channels, informational flyers distributed throughout the airport, and/or direct notifications to based tenants through established communication channels such as email or gate access renewals. By maintaining transparency and accessibility, Centennial Airport will ensure that all stakeholders remain informed of the current status of the Unleaded AvGas transition.