# Theme #10: Aviation

## Essential Air Services

1. Conduct an economic and financial analysis of the Essential Air Service (EAS) subsidy program, including utilization trends and the geographic and socioeconomic distribution of EAS program benefits (AV020).
2. Model the broader economic impacts of the Essential Air Service (EAS) program, such as the extent to which it supports overall community economic development (AV20).
3. Identify possible methods for Essential Air Service (EAS) route consolidation and the associated benefits and limitations (AV020).
4. Evaluate ground transportation alternatives to the Essential Air Service (EAS) program (AV020).
5. Develop a mode-neutral methodology for assessing the most effective means of connecting rural communities to hub airports.
6. Based on results of the above studies, develop recommend Essential Air Service (EAS) policy updates.

## Frontier and Remote Communities

1. Evaluate the extent and sustainability of general aviation (GA) services available in remote and frontier communities in the continental U.S., Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico.
2. Develop methods for comparing general aviation (GA) investments with maritime investments for passenger and freight services to landlocked coastal communities in Alaska, American Samoa, Hawaii, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

## General Aviation

1. Develop a guidebook for objective evaluation of general aviation (GA) investments, including case examples of successful and non-so-successful GA projects aimed at stimulating tourism and industrial development.
2. Conduct an updated evaluation of the economic value of general aviation (GA) in relationship to other public investments in the transportation system.
3. Identify objective methods for allocating the costs of operating and maintaining local general aviation (GA) airports between taxpayers, commercial users, and recreational users.
4. Develop case examples of communities that have developed or lost general aviation (GA) airports and the resulting effects on business and industry at both the local and state/national scales. Do general aviation investments promote growth, or simply redistribute it?

## Ground Transportation

1. Analyze the airport ground transportation industry in rural areas (e.g., size, typology, service types, fares, coverage).
2. Identify strategies for using the connections from rural areas to the air network for other trips (e.g., long-distance medical, intercity, Amtrak Thruway).

## Operations

1. Develop a method for using GIS for local government management of airspace obstructions and airport land use compatibility (AV020).
2. Evaluate the effects of wind turbines' wake turbulence on general aviation (GA) aircraft and airports (AV020).
3. Evaluate the labor market for rural aviation employees such as aircraft maintenance technicians and pilots. Identify potential interventions to balance labor supply and demand.