



ABC[®] Assessment Tool for Airport System Strategies

Benefit-Cost Analysis for State and Regional Airport System Plans

What is it? EDR Group has now completed development of ABC-2, the Airport Benefit Cost analysis system for regional planning. The system, developed with funding support by the FAA and Wisconsin Bureau of Aviation, is designed to help agencies develop strategies for airport improvements. . .

What does it do? The ABC system is designed to assess:

- Roles of airports in meeting current and future aviation demand
- Roles of airports in reducing business costs and supporting economic growth
- Policies and investments designed to shift passenger and cargo among airports
- Benefits and costs of alternative aviation policies and airport investments
- Inter-modal shifts between ground and air transport, for both passengers and cargo
- Shifts in benefits and costs among alternative classes of passengers and cargo
- Different views of benefits & costs from local, state, and national perspectives.

Model Inputs: Inputs to the ABC system are alternative scenarios representing:

- *Aviation activity forecasts:* changes in based aircraft; operations; passengers; cargo
- *Inter-modal shifts:* changes in ground-side and air-side travel times, volumes and reliability
- *Inter-airport shifts:* shifts in operations, passengers and cargo among airports
- *Inter-class shifts:* changes in airport focus on commuter, corporate, air service and other functions.

Model Output:

- *Changes in direct benefits* - for air travelers
- *Changes in additional indirect benefits* - for businesses relying on air cargo and air travel
- *Changes in economic activity* – business output, jobs and taxes, from local and state perspectives
- *Changes in capital and operating costs*
- *Benefit-Cost analysis* - discounted & undiscounted benefit & cost streams

Application. The system has been tested and implemented by Wisconsin DOT for its state airport system planning, and has been used for benefit-cost analysis for a range of projects including passenger facilities and air cargo facilities. Its application has been reviewed by FAA staff, leading to first-of-a-kind FAA approval for major investments in an all-cargo airport to support a regional industry cluster. A Variant of this database system was also developed for statewide airport system planning by Michigan DOT.

The ABC system was designed by Economic Development Research Group, Inc. of Boston, USA and operates within the Microsoft Access environment.

Availability. ABC is available from Economic Development Research Group, Inc. (1.617.338.6775).