

*A note from the Federal Aviation Administration
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Many of you in the airport and aviation community are aware of the extended tarmac delays encountered at airports in the northeast on October 29, 2011 associated with aircraft diversions necessitated by the very severe early winter snowstorm.

The Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, convened a Diversion Forum on November 30 in Washington DC to bring together aviation and airport leaders to discuss those events and a way forward to more effectively manage diversions in the future.

I was pleased to facilitate the airport breakout session at the Forum and acknowledge the participation of many from the aviation community.

I would also like to make everyone aware of an important study that is nearly completed under the Airport Cooperative Research Program. The ACRP project 10-10 is producing a "Guidebook for Airport Irregular Operations Contingency Planning." I expect that the Guidebook will contain very useful information for airports to help them plan for winter diversions as well as other irregular operations. It should be published and available before the end of February.

In the meantime, the ACRP Office at the Transportation Research Board has provided this synopsis of the forthcoming report.

<http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/acrp/docs/ACRP10-10.Update.10Dec2011.pdf>
