

Airport Master Plan - Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) #2

Date: December 3, 2014 – 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Location: Terminal Building, Central Colorado Regional Airport
AIP Project: Airport Master Plan

In Attendance:

PAC Members -

Sue Boyd, Business Owner
Linda Bruce, FAA
Judy Hassell, Airport Advisory Board
Mike Hickman, Town of Buena Vista
Dee Miller, Town of Buena Vista
Brandy Reitter, Town of Buena Vista

Mal Sillars, Century 21 Summit Realty Inc.
Jerry Steinauer, Airport Advisory Board
(alternate)

Airport Staff -

Jill Van Deel, Airport Manager

Other Attendees -

Barry Hayes, EAA Chapter 1161 President
Kim Marquis, Chaffee County Times

Consulting Team -

Dave Nafie, Jviation
Angela Folkestad, Jviation
Colleen Cummins, Jviation

1. PAC Welcome, Expectations, Ground Rules, and Master Plan Process

Colleen Cummins opened the meeting by welcoming members to the PAC and identifying Linda Bruce, FAA, Brandy Reitter, Town Administrator, and Jill Van Deel, Airport Manager. Dave Nafie and Angela Folkestad introduced themselves. Colleen briefly reviewed the meeting expectations, ground rules, and the master plan process.

2. Public Engagement and Education

Colleen provided the PAC with an overview of the public engagement/education to date. She noted the website is where you can find up to date information including the schedule, meeting dates, meeting presentations/minutes, and draft chapters. She encouraged the PAC to use the website to review items and submit any comments.

Results of the owner/operator and business surveys were reviewed. The owner/operator survey revealed that some additional hangar space is desired and FBO services are overall considered adequate. Out of 11 categories, aircraft fueling services, other, and aircraft storage (tie-downs and hangars) were deemed most essential for the Airport to provide. Runway orientation and FBO services should get the highest priority according to respondents.

Those that responded to the business survey felt the Airport was an asset to the local community and businesses.

Discussion followed and PAC comments included:

- ➔ Jill noted that she has talked to people that are waiting for box hangars.
- ➔ What was survey response rate?
 - o The owner/operator survey was sent out to 35 people, 6 of whom responded.
 - o The business survey was sent to 31 businesses, 4 of which responded. None of the high altitude testing businesses responded.
 - Brandy suggested calling the high altitude testing businesses in order to have them respond.
 - Suggestion to send out surveys with reminder one more time.

3. Inventory

Colleen briefly reviewed the elements covered in the inventory chapter, reviewing several items in further detail including the runway design code, runway designation, pavements, wind coverage, hangars, high altitude testing, economic impact, and the environmental overview.

Discussion followed and PAC comments included:

- ➔ Runway designation should be changed to 16-34 to reflect the magnetic changes.
 - o Linda noted that the project could be done with the upcoming fog seal project.
- ➔ Linda noted that the FAA can only support primary runways at GA airports due to funding priorities. A crosswind runway at AEJ would most likely require funding sources outside the FAA.
- ➔ Suggestion to look at how many hangars are occupied by owners versus rented.
- ➔ Question about condition of Mandy hangar and if wise decision to purchase due to amount of repairs needed.

- o Feel it is a bad business deal to commit \$200,000 of local funds and matching funds to buy and repair hangar.
- o It was noted that the main reason for purchasing the hangar is to buy the land underneath the hangar. The hangar is a bonus.
- o Discussion about revenue from hangar once the Airport owns it versus managing it as is done currently. Only 20 percent of funds are currently given to Airport for managing but once purchased it will be 100 percent. Hangar is extremely important to maintain high altitude testing.
- o Request for a business plan to communicate financials to the community and PAC members.
- o It was noted that a capital improvement plan will be completed towards the end of the planning process and will be based upon the preferred alternative. However, completing a business plan to purchase the hangar is not included in the scope of the master plan project and not eligible for FAA funding.
- o Brandy noted that the town will complete a business and marketing plan in 2015 which will include the Airport.

4. Aviation Forecast

Dave reviewed some general forecasting elements prior to reviewing the Airport's forecast. Items reviewed included past FAA terminal area forecasts (TAF), reasons why activity forecast are prepared and forecasting sources and methods. Demographic and socioeconomic data specific to Chaffee County and the Upper Arkansas Region (Chaffee, Lake, Fremont, and Custer Counties) was reviewed as the higher growth rate of Chaffee County is a significant element relating to the future of aviation activity in the area.

Dave reviewed the three forecast scenarios discussed in the chapter:

- Forecast Scenario 1 – Status Quo/Slow Growth
- Forecast Scenario 2 – High Growth
- Forecast Scenario 3 – Decline

He concluded that Forecast Scenario 1 was the most likely and is the preferred scenario for the Central Colorado Regional Airport. General aviation operations would grow at 2.3 percent annually and based aircraft at 3.2 percent annually.

The critical aircraft and runway design code (RDC) were then discussed, noting that the Cessna Citation CJ2 is the current critical aircraft and will remain for the future. The existing and future RDC is B-II.

5. Next Steps

Colleen Cummins provided an overview of the schedule and noted that draft Working Paper #1 (Introduction, Inventory, Aviation Forecast) has been submitted to the FAA and will be posted to the website for review and comment by the PAC. Please provide any comments by January 9, 2015.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled to occur in March 2015 along with a public open house. A poll will be sent to PAC members in the near future to determine the best date and time.

6. Other Business

Barry Hayes, President of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), Chapter 1161, attended the meeting and discussed some methods to market the Airport as well as programs the EAA conducts to promote aviation. He reviewed the Young Eagles program, Build a Plane program, and Design a Plane competition. They are looking for a 600-800 square foot hangar for the Build a Plane Program. Linda noted the Airport is unable to give hangar space away and must lease at fair market value.

He also noted that the 3rd class medical requirements drastically impacts number of pilots (reduces). There is hope that an exemption will be passed to reduce the decline.

Barry suggested signage at Highway 24 and Gregg Drive to promote/identify the Airport as well as improvements to the entrance (sign and landscaping). Repetitive exposure to people coming and leaving the town is good for Airport business. Lastly, he suggested organizing fly-ins to celebrate events (rafting, art, etc.), possibility of attracting a restaurant and a campground across from the Airport.

Jill noted the Airport has interest from a company to provide airframe repair.

Colleen closed the meeting by thanking the PAC members and other attendees for their participation and emphasizing the PAC's role in representing the community, as this will be vital to the success of the Master Plan. Jill and Brandy also expressed appreciation for everyone's participation.