



1.0 INTRODUCTION

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Central Colorado Regional Airport is owned by the Town of Buena Vista, Colorado. The airport is located just south of the central business district and just west of Colorado Highway 24 in Chaffee County. The airport is classified as a general aviation airport and serves principally piston aircraft, but also handles occasional turbine powered corporate jets and helicopters. Currently there is no commercial airline service at the airport and there are no immediate plans by any airline to initiate service.

This Airport Master Plan updates the previous Airport Master Plan Update completed in 1993. Existing conditions surrounding the Central Colorado Regional Airport have also been analyzed and updated. This Master Plan update is concerned with the anticipated growth of airport facilities necessary to accommodate future demands for a planning period utilizing historic aviation data, dating back to 1995, and projects activity through to 2021. Requirements for future facilities will be evaluated not only from the standpoint of aviation needs, but will also consider the relationship of airport operations to the surrounding land uses and the community as a whole.

Runway 15/33 is the only runway at Central Colorado Regional Airport, measuring 8,300 feet long and 75 feet wide. The runway orientation follows the natural valley alignment, which is north/south. Although aligned with the valley, the runway is subject to significant crosswinds during various times during the day and arriving aircraft often need to divert to other airports. Departing aircraft may also need to delay departure until winds diminish or change direction. A crosswind runway has been considered but has not been constructed. A full parallel taxiway, which was the original runway, provides access to each runway end.

1.2 Objectives and Need for Assistance

The Town of Buena Vista, the sponsor for this update, is continuing its efforts to plan for future development of the Central Colorado Regional Airport. Further development of the airport will enhance the safety and efficiency of both air and ground operations as well as improve the services provided to its users.

Concurrently, the sponsor wishes to study the existing use of the airport site and the land surrounding it to develop recommendations for establishing and maintaining compatibility. It is also the intent of the sponsor to evaluate existing facilities at the airport and to identify improvements that will attract additional users, including the potential for small and medium sized business jets.



Another objective of the sponsor is to enhance the productivity of the entire airport operation in order to generate the revenues necessary for funding recommended capital improvements and for recurring maintenance and repair of the airfield, roadways, utilities, and support facilities.

In order to fulfill all of these objectives, the Central Colorado Regional Airport Master Plan Update Study includes, but is not limited to, a review and evaluation of the following:

- An update of inventory of airport facilities includes airfield lighting, fixed base operations, fuel facilities, aprons, utility systems, pavement condition, navigation aids, temporary weather station and airport maintenance equipment. Also included is a review of published socioeconomic data, existing published land use and zoning documents, and airport financial data. Wind rose data, has been gathered from available sources to evaluate crosswind runway feasibility.
- An update of the forecast for aviation activity includes the number of based aircraft, number of annual general aviation operations, the mix of local, and itinerant general aviation operations and mix of general aviation aircraft.
- Identification of facility requirements for runways, taxiways, aprons, hangars, fuel facilities, general aviation terminal facilities, access roads, equipment, weather station, instrument landing systems, real estate acquisition, and land use controls.
- Evaluation of emerging aircraft and airport user needs and opportunities, along with the developing technology and capabilities in aircraft maintenance and upgrades, flight planning, weather data access, in-flight and executive jet catering food service, ground transportation, flight and new aircraft systems instruction and rental aircraft have been identified and analyzed.
- Correlation of the value of Central Colorado Regional Airport to the Town as a gateway to the community. The update details the positive economic impact to the business community and area residents considering tourism, employment, business development, Government support, tax base and new construction.
- Identification of a phasing plan, preliminary engineering analysis and cost estimates for proposed airport facility development.
- Preparation of Airport Layout Plan (ALP) drawings including an Airport Layout Plan; Terminal Area Layout Plan; FAR Part 77 drawings; Inner Portion of the Approaches Plan & Profile; Land Use Plan; and an Exhibit "A" Property Map.
- Preparation of a financial implementation program that provides the airport development requirements necessary to meet projected aviation activity demands, and prepare an Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP).



Federal assistance was used by the Town of Buena Vista to fund this Airport Master Plan Update Study for the Central Colorado Regional Airport. The assistance was necessary to identify, evaluate, and determine Airport requirements and development in addition to identification of improvements required to guide the Airport safely and efficiently into the future, as an integral part of the National Airports and Airways System.

The Master Plan Process includes use of information contained in the *National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS)*, *Terminal Area Forecast FY 2002-2005*, and *The 2000 Colorado Statewide Airport Inventory and Implementation Plan*, as well as the appropriate FAA Advisory Circulars including:

AC 150/5050-6, Airport Land Use Compatibility Planning

AC 150/5060-5, Airport Capacity and Delay

AC 15/5070-6A, Airport Master Plans

AC 150/5300-13, Airport Design, Including Changes