



Durango – La Plata County Airport

Environmental Assessment

Public Open House, April 20, 2016 Comment Responses

The following comments were received at the **April 20, 2016** Environmental Assessment (EA) Public Open House held at the La Plata County Administration Building. Responses are reflected below.

1. The biggest hurdle will be funding. My suggestions: scaled-back plan, bond – GOA, make all users fund (i.e. Farmington), and get airlines to help fund terminal.

Thank you for your comment and suggestions. The 2015 Airport Master Plan completed a detailed financial analysis. This analysis considered available funding opportunities, including but not limited to the Federal Aviation Administration, Colorado Department of Transportation, Aeronautics, Airport, and City/County. These funding avenues, and any additional opportunities identified will be considered.

2. Where is the archaeologist?

Stratified Environmental Archaeology Services (SEAS), based in Ignacio, is performing the cultural resource work for this EA. The cultural survey work is scheduled to be completed this spring. A request will be made to have a company representative at the next round of community meetings to be held this fall to help present the field work findings.

3. Great job! Looks like you have a great process going.

Thank you for your comment and continued support of your airport.

4. All for a new facility! I like the sloped roof ideas. Flat roofs in our seasons are not the best design, in my opinion! Thank you for your efforts!

Thank you for your comment and continued support of your airport.

5. I support the new airport to help bolster economic growth in our area. I would also support Alternative 3. We should not be short-sighted.

Thank you for your comment and continued support of your airport.

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6. New road alignment should be looked at to miss wildlife tree (raptors) and large spring.

The 2015 Master Plan evaluated numerous road alignment options before selecting the existing alternative. The assessment took into account impacts to the environmental, safety standards, as well as financial and social impacts. However, based upon your comment, an additional site review will be evaluated to consider a possible shift to avoid resources.

7. How will noise and dust impacts be addressed for new road?

A noise and air quality analysis will be completed as part of this Environmental Assessment. A mitigation plan will be developed if significant impacts would occur as a result of the new road.

8. How will water rights and ditches be moved?

Changes or impacts to water rights are highly unlikely as water flow will not be redirected. Design will incorporate culverts or similar drainage conveyance structures to allow water to pass underneath the road to existing drainage paths.

9. Is current CDOT right-of-way wide enough for intersection?

Upcoming traffic count analyses will be used to determine the preliminary intersection layouts. It is anticipated that the existing right-of-way will accommodate the new intersection.

10. If bond fails, does road fail as well?

The terminal project includes the new intersection and access road as the projects are related. Should the bond fail, any road improvements would need to be prioritized with other road projects and subject to CDOT and/or County funding availability.

11. EA should encompass north side of Hwy 172.

The EA study area does incorporate a portion north of 172 to accommodate the new intersection.