



## 6. CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

### 6.1 Public and Agency Involvement

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 1050.1F, *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures*, and FAA's Community Involvement Policy Statement,<sup>1</sup> a public involvement process was completed as part of this EA. The process gathered public input regarding the Proposed Action and reasonable alternatives described and analyzed in this Environmental Assessment (EA). The public involvement process was initiated to:

- Provide information to the public about the Proposed Action's purpose and need and the alternatives the EA discusses;
- Obtain feedback regarding information assessed in the EA from the public and agencies interested in and affected by the Proposed Actions (i.e., interested parties);
- Notify interested parties that the EA will provide a complete analysis of environmental effects resulting from the Proposed Actions;
- Provide public notices to the interested parties regarding opportunities to submit comments and participate in public meetings concerning the Proposed Actions; and
- Document comments received throughout the process.

### 6.2 Public Involvement and Agency Coordination Approach and Process

Applicable federal and state statutes, regulations, executive orders, and guidance were considered throughout the public involvement process in this EA. An assessment of public and agency concerns with the Proposed Actions was created by soliciting and responding to comments and questions from interested parties. From this it was determined whether additional analyses and/or mitigation measures were needed in this EA. **Table 6-1** summarizes meetings held in conjunction with the public involvement process completed in this EA. Presentations, notices, comments and responses to comments can be found in **Appendix J**.

TABLE 6-1 – SUMMARY OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

Meeting	Meeting Type	Location	Attendance	Comments
11/4/2015	Landowner	Airport Conference Room	21	
	Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Airport Conference Room	15	
	Agency Coordination	Airport Conference Room	14	
11/19/2015	Airport Advisory Commission	Airport Conference Room	10	
12/8/2015	Tribal Coordination	Conference Call	8	
2/18/2016	Agency Coordination	LaPlata County Public Works	9	
4/19/2016	Joint Study Session	LaPlata County Admin Bldg. Board Room	20	
	Landowner	Airport Conference Room	16	
4/20/2016	Open House	LaPlata County Admin Bldg. Board Room	19	Yes
4/21/2016	Open House	Ignacio Town Hall	18	Yes
	Airport Advisory Commission	Airport Conference Room	10	
5/25/2016	Agency Coordination	CDOT Region 5 Office	12	

<sup>1</sup> Federal Aviation Administration, *Community Involvement Policy Statement*, April 17, 1995.



Meeting	Meeting Type	Location	Attendance	Comments
9/1/2016	Agency Coordination	Durango City Hall Council Chambers	7	
10/27/2016	Agency Coordination	LaPlata County Admin Bldg. Board Room	13	
11/17/2016	Airport Advisory Commission	Airport Conference Room	10	
1/10/2017	Joint Study Session	LaPlata County Admin Bldg. Board Room	20	
2/14/2017	Joint Study Session	Durango City Hall Council Chambers	20	
2/16/2017	Airport Advisory Commission	Airport Conference Room	10	
11/3/2017	Agency Coordination	LaPlata County Admin Bldg. Board Room	8	
11/16/2017	Airport Advisory Commission	Airport Conference Room	10	
12/13/2018	Landowner – DEA	Airport Conference Room	10	2
12/13/2018	Airport Advisory Commission - DEA	Durango City Hall Council Chambers	13	1
12/13/2018	Public Hearing - DEA	Durango City Hall Council Chambers	0	

Source: Jviation

### 6.3 Early Public and Agency Notification and Coordination

Early coordination letters regarding the EA were mailed out to interested agencies in December 2015. The letters requested input from federal, state, and local agencies concerning potential adverse environmental effects associated with the Proposed Actions and alternatives.

The letter included a brief description of the project, an overview of the alternatives, a list of preliminary environmental resource impacts, proposed project scheduled, and the distribution list (see **Appendix J** for sample letter and attachments). **Table 6-2** provide a summary of the agencies that received a coordination letter and their response (if applicable):

TABLE 6-2 – SUMMARY OF AGENCY COORDINATION

Agency Contacted	Written Response Received	Summary of Comments
City of Durango	No	NA
Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust	Yes	Request to avoid any expansion or renovation of the airport that impacts the McCaw Ranch in any way and to copy CCALT on any correspondence with Mr. Paul McCaw should any plans include an impact to the property
Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)	No	NA
Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment	No	NA
Durango-La Plata County Airport Commission	No	NA
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Yes	Recommends that alternative roadway crossings are further evaluated in the Final EA to reduce wetland impacts as required in EO 11990 and the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (404 permit review)
Federal Aviation Administration	No	FAA was sent the initial scoping letter but a response was not anticipated as they are actively involved with the project and have given their comments throughout the process. Their comments are incorporated into the DEA and FEA
La Plata County	No	Assumed concurrence as no response was received
La Plata County Historic Preservation	No	Assumed concurrence as no response was received

Agency Contacted	Written Response Received	Summary of Comments
La Plata County Public Works	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Any minor source permits would be permitted through the EPA</li> <li>– Assess water resources to support larger development process and access improvements</li> <li>– Mitigation measures for adverse impacts on neighboring properties</li> <li>– Contact Victoria Schmitt or Jim Davis if interested in using the proposed Airport Business Park project (2009-2012) as background for the EA (comment given under themes: Noise and Compatible Land Use &amp; Socioeconomic, Environmental Justice, and Children's Environmental Health and Safety Risks)</li> <li>– Contact Christi Zeller at the La Plata County Energy Council regarding Natural Resources and Energy Supply</li> <li>– Mitigation measures to minimize noise and achieve land compatibility</li> <li>– Mention Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)</li> <li>– Remove vegetation prior to April and conduct a sight survey for any nests prior to construction</li> <li>– Golden Eagle nest was located at runway end; Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940 prevents "taking" of an eagle ("take permit" received and nest removed)</li> </ul>
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Yes	Coordinate between Section 106 and NEPA
State of Colorado Department of Natural Resources	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– See U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requirements for a mitigation plan for impacted wetlands (not included in the scoping notice); CPW recommends off-site wetland mitigation</li> <li>– Monitor the southeastern end of the runway for eagle activity</li> <li>– Recommended removal of two cottonwood trees that have the potential for bald eagle winter roots</li> <li>– Recommended 8' tall game fence</li> </ul>
State of Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	No	NA
Town of Ignacio	No	NA
U.S. Army Corps / Durango Regulatory Office	No	NA

Source: Jviation

## 6.4 Draft EA Notification and Distribution

The Draft EA was released for public comment on November 13, 2018. Comments were accepted through December 27, 2018. To facilitate comments, a public hearing was held on December 13, 2018. The public hearing did not have any attendees. The USFWS requested a copy of the Draft EA and provided written comments in a letter dated December 21, 2018. Presentations, notices, comments and responses to comments associated to the Draft EA can be found in **Appendix M**.

## 6.5 Changes in Final EA

The Final EA incorporates changes from the Draft EA as outlined in **Table 6-3**. The changes are minimal and largely associated to the selection of Alternatives 1 and 2 as a combined proposed action and additional agency coordination. As discussed in Chapter 3, at the conclusion of the public comment period, the Airport reviewed the three action alternatives and determined that a combination of the Alternatives 1 and 2 would be the best option in moving forward. The Airport Advisory Commission unanimously voted on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 to select the combination of Alternative 1 and 2 as the Proposed Action. With this decision being made, the FAA sent



final coordination letters to the USFWS and SHPO requesting comments and concerns with moving forward on the combined Alternatives 1 and 2. These coordination letters can be found in **Appendix J**.

TABLE 6-3 – SUMMARY OF CHANGES MADE TO FINAL EA

Chapter 1 – minor modification to text in Section 1.
Chapter 2 – minor modification to text in Section 2.
Chapter 3 – minor modification to text in Section 3.2.8.
Chapter 3 – addition of Section 3.2.9 to discuss the selection of combined Alternatives 1 and 2 as the proposed action.
Chapter 4 – no changes
Chapter 5 – addition of USFWS coordination to Section 5.2
Chapter 5 – addition of SHPO coordination to Section 5.6
Chapter 5 – Alternatives 1 and 2 combined for review under Section 5.10
Chapter 5 – Table 5-8 updated to show Alternatives 1 and 2 under one column
Chapter 6 – Table 6-1 updated to include public meetings and hearing associated with the Draft EA
Chapter 6 – Section 6.4 updated to include public notification information for the Draft EA
Chapter 6 – Section 6.5 and Table 6-2 added to discuss changes made from the Draft EA to the Final EA.
Chapter 7 – no changes
Chapter 8 – no changes
Chapter 9 – no changes
Chapter 10 – appendices updated as needed

Source: Jviation