

INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

This study provides a comprehensive look at the current operations and facilities of the Pocatello Regional Airport (PIH). It describes infrastructure alternatives to meet future aviation demands, makes recommendations of preferred alternatives, and provides the framework needed to guide Airport development. This study also considers economic development opportunities, Land Use, and Grant Compliance, while meeting all Federal Aviation Administration Master Planning requirements

Project Purpose

The purpose of an Airport Master Plan Update is to provide specific details and guidance to enhance the future facility development of an airport to enable it to best satisfy the aviation needs of the community and region it serves. Several methodologies were used to analyze current facilities and operations and then forecast future aviation growth and demands. Based on that analysis, alternatives were developed to meet the projected growth. This phase required extensive input from those involved in all facets of the Airport as well as from the community as a whole.

Projections for growth, and the resulting demand on facilities, initially take a broad and long-term approach. However, in order to accurately predict facility needs, these projections will include consideration of normal variations on a seasonal, monthly, daily, and hourly basis. Facility needs are based upon "peak levels" of activity, rather than relying on overall averages of demand. This study addresses three planning periods: short-term (2010-2015); intermediate-term (2016-2020); and long-term (2021-2030).

Shorter planning horizons typically represent the more accurate projections and more detailed development plans. Longer horizons are more conceptual, and the timing to implement projects in long-range plans may vary considerably according to need. Many of the recommendations are based on the premise that if a certain activity occurs, then identified alternatives should be implemented.

Project Goals

In general, Airport Master Plans can range in the topics they cover, from those that are fairly pointed to those that are comprehensive. Within this Master Plan Update the following areas are those in which greater emphasis was placed.

- Support for local and regional economic growth through aviation activity
- Maximize the Airport's potential for economic self sufficiency
- Develop facility and infrastructure improvements to support projected aviation activity

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement serves to ensure that the Master Plan benefits from the input of stakeholders, the general public, and other interested parties. There are three phases to public involvement included in this Master Plan.

Advisory Committees

One Advisory Committee (AC) was formed as part of the Master Plan Process. The AC was responsible for providing input and insight on the technical issues as they pertain to the Airport and related elements to be addressed in the Master Plan Update. In addition, the AC was responsible for providing insight and guidance on the community's reaction, sensitivity, criticism, and desires for PIH as it relates to the greater community.

The AC was principally composed of key representatives of the following entities: PIH, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) – Division of Aeronautics, major tenants and operators, policy and administrative representatives from local, county, and/or regional organizations, key community leaders, and local residential groups.

Public Information Workshops

Public information workshops are an important element of public involvement. One outreach opportunity was provided at a key juncture. Public Workshop #1 was held following the selection of the preferred alternatives. The purpose of this workshop was to inform the public of the study processes and findings, obtain public response and input, and coordinate planning objectives with the needs and concerns of local community organizations and the public at large.

The workshop format included a brief project overview presentation, supported by a number of workstations presenting information relating to specific aspects of the project. The workstations were staffed by selected representatives to address public comments and questions on a one-on-one basis.

Internet Publication of Draft Reports and Meeting Minutes

All draft reports, meeting notes, and other Master Plan Update documents were posted on the Airport's website as they were completed. This method permitted all those involved in the Master Plan Update process and the general public to be kept up to date with the project's process and to provide comments.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Existing Conditions chapter provides inventory data relevant to the present day condition at PIH and the local vicinity. The inventory process is the initial step in the development of the Master Plan Update and provides the foundation on which all subsequent analysis within this document is conducted. The material collected and presented provides essential background information and updates the information provided in the previous master planning effort.

AVIATION DEMAND FORECAST

The Aviation Demand Forecast projects aviation demand over a 20-year planning period. This forecast provides a base for determining the type, size, and timing of aviation facility development. Forecasts involve both analytical techniques and subjective considerations. Regardless of the methodology used, assumptions are made about how internal and external forces might change the ultimate usage of the Airport.

Forecasts for annual and peak hour operations, instrument approaches, and based aircraft were developed. Emphasis was placed on analyzing alternative forecast scenarios so that realistic expectations regarding airport activity may be anticipated, either positively or negatively.

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Facility Requirements analysis reviewed the existing facilities from a capability perspective to define the airfield and landside facility requirements for the future development of the Airport. The principal challenge facing Pocatello Regional Airport is meeting the changes emerging in the commercial airline industry and the facility requirements these emerging changes may create. As part of this study potential revenue enhancement opportunities were analyzed, a conceptual development plan was developed, and new funding sources were identified.

IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The Identification and Evaluation of Alternatives for airport improvements at Pocatello Regional Airport was conducted. These alternatives satisfy the facility requirements, as well as, the strategic objectives and goals of the City of Pocatello and adhere to safe Airport operational standards set by the FAA. The result of this analysis was a cohesive plan for Airport development that functionally combined all recommended improvements with the existing facilities. This plan enables the Airport to effectively develop projects for the future, and remain a leading transportation venue for the area.

AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN

The Airport Layout Plan creates a blueprint for airport development by depicting the proposed facility improvements consistent with the established strategic vision of the PIH. The plans provided a guideline by which the Airport can assure that development meets FAA airport design standards and safety requirements, and are necessary to receive Federal and State financial assistance.

FACILITIES IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Facilities Implementation Plan provides guidance on accomplishing the findings and recommendations of the Master Plan Update. The implementation plan considers the demand-driven need for facilities according to the Facilities Requirements and provided the City of Pocatello, the State of Idaho, and the FAA with information needed to integrate the Master Plan Update's recommendations with the Airport's long-term capital development program. The implementation plan includes a master schedule for the major projects of the development plan, and outlines key activities and responsibilities for completion of each step of the process.

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