



Public Meeting February 18, 2010

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Open House
7:30 – 8:00 p.m. Presentation
8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Discussion



Public Meeting Purpose

- Explain airport master plan process
- Discuss project goals, issues, and schedule
- Discuss public involvement opportunities
- Discuss your questions and master plan issues



What is an Airport Master Plan?

- 20-year development plan
- Identifies issues and proposes improvements
- Required for Federal funding
- Airport Layout Plan (ALP)
- For Willow Airport and Seaplane Base:
 - No prior Master Plan
 - 2003 ALP



Phase I Study Report

- Public Involvement
- Inventory (ongoing)
- Forecasts (ongoing)
- Iditarod Restart Siting Report (ongoing)
- Land Use Assessment Report
 - Conceptual Alternatives
 - Preliminary Cost Estimates
 - Conceptual Capital Improvement Program
- Updated Airport Layout Plan (ALP) with Narrative



Phase II – Airport Master Plan (not funded)

- Public Involvement
- Environmental Considerations
- Economic Evaluation
- Photography and Mapping
- Draft Airport Master Plan w/ Alternatives
- Final Airport Master Plan w/ Preferred Alternative
- Revised Airport Layout Plan (ALP)



Phase I Project Goals

- Document issues and concerns
- Develop 20-year aviation forecast
- Determine aviation and non-aviation land needs
- Document and make recommendations on non-aviation land uses
- Engage the public in the planning process
- Develop conceptual alternatives that consider:
 - Forecasted needs
 - Stakeholder issues and concerns
 - FAA design standards
 - Costs



Phase I Project Schedule

- Issues Identification/Data Collection..... Sept. 2009-March 2010
- Site Visit..... October 2009
- Aviation Activity Forecasts..... Oct. 2009-March 2010
- Public Meeting 1 – Issues..... February 18, 2010
- Facility Requirements February-April 2010
- Iditarod Restart Siting Study..... April 2010
- Public Meeting 2 May 2010 (*tentative*)
- Land Use Assessment..... June-August 2010
- Public Meeting 3..... Sept./Oct. 2010 (*tentative*)
- Draft Phase I Study Report..... November 2010
- Final Phase I Study Report..... January 2011



Previous Improvements Identified (20-Year Development Plan, per 2003 ALP)

- Shorten runway from 4,400 ft. to 4,000 ft.
- Pave runway, taxiways, apron
- Construct ski/gravel strip
- Install new lighting system
- Construct taxiway connectors
- Improve drainage
- Expand apron
- Install perimeter fencing
- Clear trees
- Additional tie downs
- Lengthen access road
- Construct heliport and lease lots/access road east of runway





Initial Issues Identified

- Alaska Railroad obstructions:
 - Turnaround spur near Runway 31 affects runway length
 - Tracks penetrate Part 77 Airspace (Transitional Surface)
- Visibility issues caused by trees
- No taxiway connecting north end of apron to Runway 13
- Better instrument approaches needed



Initial Issues Identified

- Lack of fencing results in unauthorized access on airport and vandalism
- Access road needs to be extended to the north
- Additional long-term vehicle parking needed
- Additional building space for M&O equipment needed





Initial Issues Identified

- Lake:
 - Multiple users
 - Shallow
 - Short takeoff surface
 - Island
 - Trees
- Shared road between community vehicle traffic and aircraft
- Safety concerns where aircraft cross highway
- Aircraft noise concerns



Initial Issues Identified – Future Growth and Land Use

- Incompatible land uses:
 - Church
 - School
 - Iditarod Race re-start
 - Winter Carnival
- Potential growth:
 - Airport (limited by Alaska Railroad and Parks Highway)
 - Community expansion
 - Parks Highway improvements
 - Alaska Railroad



Parks Highway

- Existing Parks Highway (Willow area):
 - 2 lanes are adequate
 - 200 ft.- 300 ft. ROW
 - Guided by the *Parks Highway Visioning* document
- Low/medium growth scenario:
 - 2 lanes are adequate through 2030
 - Aircraft crossing safety concerns
- High growth scenario:
 - May trigger need for 4 lanes with frontage road beyond 2030
 - Controlled access
 - Minimum ROW width 300 ft.
 - Aircraft crossing safety concerns



Existing Parks Highway Right-of-Way through Airport corridor



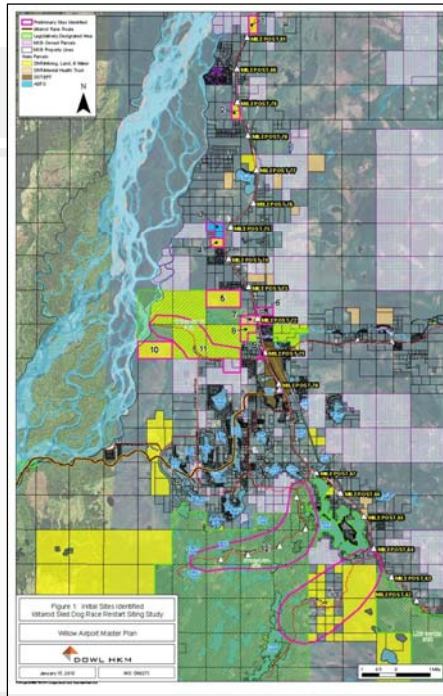


Iditarod Race Restart Siting Study

- Study purpose: Identify an off-airport location for race restart
- Problems with holding restart on airport:
 - Safety concerns with pedestrians crossing Parks Highway
 - Not consistent with FAA funding grant assurances
- FAA granted interim use of Airport while ITC finds new site
- DOT&PF working with ITC to find a new location
- Evaluation criteria:
 - Safe and reliable trail
 - Acquisition/permitting costs and site development costs
 - Adequate land for vehicle parking, spectators/mushers/dogs, and visitor center/museum/store
 - Adjacent land uses
- Present findings to ITC Board of Directors in April



13 sites initially identified for Iditarod Restart Siting Study





Economic Findings from Socioeconomic/Forecast Report

- Willow area population growth:
 - Up 3.8% per year between 2000 and 2008
 - Population growth expected to continue
- Airport/Seaplane Base
 - Uniquely capable of serving aircraft on wheels, skis and floats
 - Non-precision instrument approach
 - Fuel and aircraft maintenance/repair are available
 - Tourism/fly-in recreation (hunting, fishing, site-seeing, hiking)
- 2009 estimates:
 - Operations: 15,814 at Airport and 2,182 at Seaplane Base
 - Based aircraft: 100 at Airport and 6 at Seaplane Base



Public Involvement Opportunities

- Project website: www.dot.alaska.gov/creg/willow
- Contact DOWL HKM/DOT&PF Project Managers
- Email and Mail public notices
- Public meetings
- Comment forms
- Updates to Willow area organizations and aviation interest groups



Contact Information

- **Allen Kemplen, AICP**
DOT&PF Project Manager
Central Region, DOT&PF
P.O. Box 196900
Anchorage, AK 99519-6900
Telephone: (907) 269-0513
Email: allen.kemplen@alaska.gov
- **Tom Middendorf, Project Manager**
DOWL HKM
4041 B Street
Anchorage, AK 99503
Telephone: (907) 562-2000
Email: tmiddendorf@dowlhkm.com

Don't forget to check the project web site for updates!

www.dot.alaska.gov/creg/willow



Discussion

- Questions?
- Other issues that should be addressed in the Phase I Study?

Thank you for coming to the meeting

