

Public Involvement Plan

Scammon Bay Airport Planning Study

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Prepared for:

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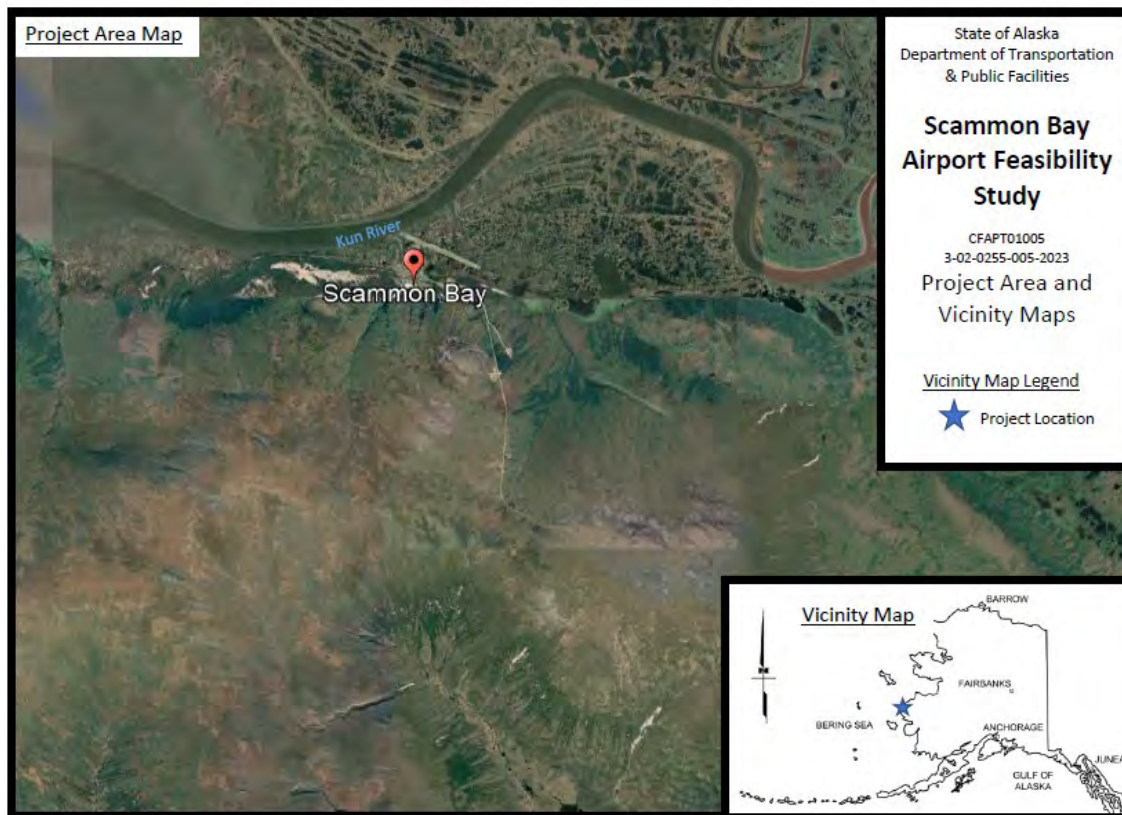
1 INTRODUCTION

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Central Region (DOT&PF) is conducting an Airport Planning Study at Scammon Bay, funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The study may include up to three planning and public involvement phases. The first phase is called a Feasibility Study, which will evaluate the feasibility of improving the airport in its current location or constructing a new airport at a different site near the community. Subsequent phases may include a site selection study and airport layout plan. This phase, though, is focused on gathering information about the airport and community needs.

The purpose of this Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to encourage dialogue and sufficiently inform the public, airport users, and resource agencies during the Feasibility Study phase of this planning process. A combination of public meetings, a project website, and mailing lists will meet the objective of providing early opportunities in the planning process to take comments about potential issues before final recommendations are made.

Scammon Bay is a remote community located in the Kusilvak Census Area, near the Bering Sea, nearly 150 miles northwest of Bethel. The community is bordered by the Kun River and wetlands to the north and the Askinuk Mountains to the south. Much of the community, including the airport, is located at sea level elevation.

The Scammon Bay airport is owned and operated by DOT&PF. The airport is threatened by riverine flooding from the Kun River that overtops the airport every five to ten years. The Scammon Bay airport is expected to be impacted by major flooding sometime before 2030; the most recent major flood was in 2022.



2 PUBLIC OUTREACH

2.1 Public Meetings

One public meeting will be held during the Airport Feasibility Study phase of this planning study. The purpose of the meeting will be to inform the public about the project, field questions, and receive feedback.

The public meeting will focus on soliciting comments from the public on potential alternatives to address the needs identified in the Airport Feasibility Study. The meeting will summarize the identified needs at the airport. The majority of the meeting will be spent introducing alternatives which could address the needs identified at the airport.

Alternative locations for the airport will also be presented, in addition to pros and cons of maintaining the airport in the current location. The meeting will focus on stakeholders providing input on the current and alternative locations. The meeting will allow for informal discussion and formal comments to be documented from community members. Community members will be able to evaluate and voice support or concern about alternatives; and suggest improvements to the process.

Public meetings will also be held during subsequent planning phases if airport relocation is recommended and during a construction project for the airport, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

2.2 Website

A public website will be hosted on the DOT&PF projects webpage to inform the public about the plan. This webpage will serve as a repository for documents, newsletters, and notifications about the Airport Planning Study. Contact information for project leaders will allow the public to directly participate in the plan.

2.3 Mailing List

A mailing list will be maintained throughout the project. This live document will include all of those people who have self-identified interest in the project, and any additional stakeholders who have been identified through scoping. The mailing list will be used to update interested stakeholders about project updates, open houses, and other appropriate events.

2.4 Informational and Educational Materials: Flyers and Comment Cards

Flyers and comment card materials will be published on the project website, sent in mailings, and be available as handouts at the open house. These are used to provide the public key information about the project, schedule, needs, and alternatives. The local Delta Discovery newspaper and KYUK, the public radio station for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, will also be contacted to run notifications about the project.

2.5 Advertisement

Project meeting announcements will be sent to the project mailing list. Flyers will be sent to the Post Office and Library for display. Advertisements for public meetings will be run in the local newspaper, the Delta Discovery. Meeting announcements will also be published on the Alaska Online Public Notice website and a media release will be prepared.

Public meetings will be noticed at least 21 calendar days in advance and coordinated with the City of Scammon Bay and Native Village of Scammon Bay tribal leaders.

2.6 Comment Collection

Summaries of public meeting records, including documentation of comments received during open format discussions will be completed and appended to the Airport Planning Study. Individual comments received through comment forms, emails, and webpage outreach will be collected and saved in the project records. Relevant comments and responses will be summarized in tabular form and included in the Airport Planning Study.

2.7 Translation Services

Translation services will be available for the Central Yup'ik language at public meetings for the Feasibility Study.

3 POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS

The Scammon Bay Airport is an important component of the Scammon Bay community, providing the only year-round linkage to Bethel and the broader region. As a result, there are many interested parties, some which have been identified (below). Additional parties will be maintained in the mailing list.

- City of Scammon Bay
- Native Village of Scammon Bay and Scammon Bay Traditional Council
- Askinuk Corporation
- Calista Corporation
- Association of Village Council Presidents
- Lower Kuskokwim School District
- Commercial Operators
 - Bering Air
 - Fox Aircraft, LLC
 - Grant Aviation
 - Iliamna Air Taxi
 - Katmai Air
 - Ryan Air
 - Yute Commuter Service
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
- Federal Agencies
 - FAA Airport Division
 - FAA Flight Service
 - FAA Runway Safety
- State Agencies
 - Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF)
 - Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), Division of Communities and Regional Affairs (DCRA)
 - Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
 - Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- State Legislators and Federal Congressional Delegation

4 PROJECT CONTACTS

4.1 DOT&PF – Central Region

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