



City Council Report

Date: October 8, 2009
To: City Council
Through: Jack Friedline, Deputy City Manager
From: Corinne Nystrom, Falcon Field Airport Director
Subject: Mesa-Falcon Field Airport Master Plan Update

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information about the Mesa-Falcon Field Airport Master Plan Update.

Background

As Falcon Field Airport continues to serve the general aviation needs of Mesa and the region, it is experiencing growth. This growth should be well-planned and well-executed so that it serves the increasing demand for aviation services, while also remaining sensitive to the needs of the surrounding community. A Master Plan Update has been undertaken to evaluate the airport's capabilities and role, to forecast future aviation demand, and to plan for the timely development of new or expanded facilities that may be required to meet the demand over the next 15-20 years. It is intended to be a proactive document that identifies and plans for future facility needs well in advance of the actual need for the facilities. The last Master Plan Update was completed in 1992.

This Master Plan Update has been prepared by Coffman Associates and was developed with the assistance of a Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), consisting of representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), ADOT-Aeronautics, MAG, Arizona Military Airspace Working Group, Falcon Field Airport management, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport, Boeing, MD Helicopters, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Falcon Field Tenants and Users Association, National Business Aircraft Association, Arizona Pilots Association, Experimental Aircraft Association, City departments, airport businesses, and private citizens. In addition to PAC meetings held, three (3) public information meetings were held so that the general public had an opportunity to voice their opinions about the future development of Falcon Field.

Discussion

The Master Plan is considered to be the primary planning tool that the City, the FAA, and the State will use over the next several years to determine which airport capital improvement projects should be considered for funding. The Plan does not commit the FAA, State, or City to fund the projects listed. Rather, future airport development will be demand-based.

Since the primary focus of the Plan is to provide forecasting information regarding future demand for aviation services and to identify infrastructure improvements that will be necessary to meet this demand, it does not delve into topics such as aircraft flight patterns and practices, specific tenant issues, or noise abatement policies and practices. In addition to City approval, the Plan must also be approved by the FAA.

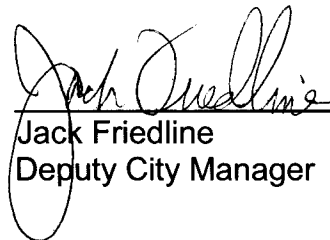
The Plan was presented to and approved by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on April 6th with the condition that the Plan show the new terminal building location in the east World War II hangar, rather than the west hangar, and that the portion of the existing Falcon Field Park where the historic fireplace is located be retained as a park. These changes have been incorporated into the final draft.

Study Session Presentation

Coffman Associates will be providing a Powerpoint presentation at the City Council Study Session to familiarize Council members with the general concepts that are included in the Master Plan Update. They will also be available to respond to any questions that Council members have about the Update or future infrastructure improvement plans at Falcon Field.



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Airport Director



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Deputy City Manager