



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ANN ARBOR AIRPORT LAUNCHES ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PLANNING EFFORT

ANN ARBOR, Mich., April 20, 2009 — The City of Ann Arbor is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine the potential impacts of lengthening the primary runway at the Ann Arbor Airport at 801 Airport Drive from 3,500' to 4,300' and a shift of the runway 150' to the southwest. The assessment results will determine potential impacts to noise levels, air quality, water quality, wetlands, floodplains, plant and wildlife, light emissions, historical and cultural resources, social, and socioeconomic factors. No runway changes will be approved until this environmental clearance process is completed.

A 12 member volunteer Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) will kick-off a series of meetings in early May as part of the assessment team. The CAC members will serve as representatives for area residents, pilots, and local municipalities. The CAC will assist with the review and discussion of the airport studies. Interested members of the public also may follow the status of the airport study via online newsletter updates, press releases, meeting notices, and by attending the public hearing. To help address questions related to the process and the potential runway improvement, two Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) handouts have been posted on the city's airport web page. The condensed FAQ version is geared more toward non-aviation individuals. The technical FAQ version is longer and contains more detail including the specific references to various aviation regulations and practices. To sign up for periodic updates on this project, visit the airport page on the city's Web site, www.a2gov.org: select "Airport" from the "Government" drop-down menu, and then click the red envelope to subscribe.

The EA is expected to take approximately eight months to complete. The scope of the EA is defined by state and federal regulations and, upon completion, must be approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation – Bureau of Aeronautics (MDOT-Aero) and the Federal Aviation Administration. A public hearing on the findings of the EA is required by law. Public comments received will be made part of the final EA document.



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The overall project consists of completing an EA documenting the potential impacts related to an 800' runway safety extension and a shift of the runway 150' to the southwest. These modifications were depicted on the Airport Layout Plan approved by city council in September 2008. The full scope of the EA will be completed by two consulting firms, JJR and URS Corporation Great Lakes. JJR, through their Ann Arbor office, will be the lead consulting firm for the EA, including the public involvement and coordination. URS Corporation, the airport's design engineer, will be preparing preliminary engineering on the runway extension and completing other technical tasks in support of the EA and JJR.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named the No. 1 Healthiest Hometown in the U.S. by AARP The Magazine in 2008. Other notable recognitions include: No. 27 of the top 100 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2008, as well as the fourth smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

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