

Citizens Advisory Council – Meeting #2

Ann Arbor Municipal Airport Environmental Assessment

July 20, 2009
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

1. Introductions
2. Environmental Studies Update
 - a. Noise
 - b. Historic Resources
 - c. Botanical and wetland survey
3. Study Justification / Purpose and Need
4. Study Status & Next Steps
5. Questions & Answers

Information Packet – Citizens Advisory Council Meeting #2

Ann Arbor Municipal Airport Environmental Assessment

Prepared By: JJR

July 13, 2009

The JJR consultant team is conducting investigations to assess existing conditions on airport property and its immediate vicinity for the following categories: noise analysis; land use; socioeconomics; air quality; historic resources; contaminated sites; Section 4(f) resources; and the physical and ecological environment. Data from these investigations will be used as a base to identify potential impacts from proposed improvements at the airport. Potential mitigation measures to minimize impacts are also being addressed. Data collection has involved fieldwork, literature searches, and coordination with appropriate resource agencies.

The specific categories of studies are listed below along with a brief description of analysis being completed. Results of the investigations for noise, historic resources, and botanical communities will be presented at the second CAC meeting on July 20th.

Noise – The noise analysis compares the existing noise levels with future levels under two scenarios, a No Build Alternative and a Build Alternative. The Build Alternative assumes the proposed improvements are implemented at the airport. The results of this analysis are compared with the surrounding land use to ensure compatibility.

Status: The noise analysis is being conducted. The data is being compiled and a summary report is being prepared. These results will be presented at the July 20th CAC meeting.

Land Use – Existing land use data is collected and compared with any anticipated changes as a result of the proposed improvements at the airport. These changes are then compared to the existing land use plans and future land use plans of City of Ann Arbor and surrounding municipalities.

Status: In progress.

Socioeconomics – This category includes potential impacts on community displacements (residential and commercial) community cohesion, community facilities, demographics, economy, and environmental justice. Environmental justice considers impacts to low-income and minority populations with the intention of avoiding disproportionate impacts to these populations.

Status: In progress.

Air Quality – The study team is contacting the appropriate state and federal agencies responsible for air quality standards, to determine if an emissions analysis based on future airport operations is required. Available data will be collected to confirm that the airport is located in an area that is currently below threshold levels for specific regulated pollutants.

Status: In progress.

Historic Resources – The study team category will examine cultural resources, both above-ground and below-ground. This will consist of a review of the state archaeological site files and the state above-ground resource files to determine if there are any previously recorded cultural resources in or near the airport property. Structures that may be significant or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and that may be impacted by the proposed project will also be investigated. After review of project plans, a field review of the project area will also be undertaken to determine if an archaeological and/or an above-ground resource survey will be necessary to identify previously unrecorded archaeological sites and/or historic above-ground resources that might be impacted by the proposed project.

Status: The initial file and field review has been completed. The results are being reviewed by MDOT's archaeologist. The results will be presented at the July 20th CAC meeting.

Contamination/Hazardous Materials – The study team will research environmental records including State and Federal databases of sites containing hazardous or contaminated materials to determine whether listed sites exist within the project area. The results of the database search will be summarized in relation to the potential for encountering hazardous or contaminated materials within the limits of the proposed improvements.

Status: In progress.

Section 4(f) Resources - Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act (1966) specifies that publicly-owned land, such as a park, recreational area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge, of national, state, or local significance, or any land from a historic site of national, state, or local significance, may not be used for transportation projects unless there is no other prudent and feasible alternative. If such a site is impacted and there are no other prudent and feasible alternatives, the proposed project must include all possible efforts to minimize impacts to Section 4(f) properties.

Status: In progress.

Physical and Ecological Environment- This category encompasses many resources, including water resources, biotic communities, threatened and endangered species, wetland resources, floodplains, and farmland.

Water Resources –Based on a review of existing databases and fieldwork, the study team will evaluate potential impacts to surface water and subsurface groundwater, including issues related to siltation, runoff, dredge and/or fill activities in navigable waters, aquifer or well contamination, and impacts on sensitive ecological areas.

Status: In progress.

Biotic Communities – Biotic communities that may be impacted by the proposed airport expansion are identified and characterized based on: 1) existing available data, 2) coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and 3) and fieldwork.

Status: A field review has been completed. These results will be presented at the July 20th meeting.

Threatened and Endangered Species – The study team will coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory to determine if there are any known threatened or endangered species protected under Federal and/or State jurisdiction within the project area.

Status: In progress.

Wetlands – Wetlands will be identified through a review of National Wetland Inventory maps, the county soil survey, USGS topographical maps and a field investigation. The location of identified wetlands will be compared with the proposed improvements at the airport to determine potential impacts, including types of wetland to be impacted, typical plant communities, and their functional values. Mitigation of impacts to wetlands may require new wetlands to be constructed at another location.

Status: The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality will be conducting a field review to determine if wetlands are present within the impact areas.

Floodplains –Federal Emergency Management Administration maps will be reviewed (if available) relative to floodplain encroachment and anticipated project impacts.

Status: In progress.

Farmland –Impacts to prime and unique farmland, and farmland of state or local significance will be determined through a review of county soil maps and coordination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Michigan Department of Agriculture, and the MDNR. Form AD1006 will be completed and submitted to the NRCS for determination of impacts to prime or important agricultural soils.

Status: Form AD1006 is currently being reviewed and completed by the Washtenaw County NRCS.

Light Emissions –The location of lights or light systems and associated impacts to surrounding land uses will be described based on the location and type of airfield lighting proposed and proximity to these land uses.

Status: In progress.