RAPID CITY
REGIONAL
AIRPORT

Airport Master Plan Update

RAPID CITY REGIONAL AIRPORT

INTRODUCTION

The City of Rapid City has initiated the preparation of an Airport Master Plan Update for the Rapid City Regional Airport. The purpose of the Airport Master Plan Update is to incorporate recent changes experienced by the aviation industry into a strategic plan and future vision for the Rapid City Regional Airport.

In recent years, significant changes have occurred both in the aviation industry and the community. Examples of changing standards and trends in the aviation industry include major modifications of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airport design criteria, a national decline in the number of personal use general aviation aircraft owners and pilots, with an increasing number of air taxi, corporate, and air cargo operations. Passenger air carriers have also undergone a shift in dynamics. The structure of the commercial industry has changed, with the transition of major airline hub-and-spoke operations and code sharing regional carriers, and the growth of no-frills operators such as Southwest Airlines and its imitators.

On the local level, there has been significant economic growth in the Rapid City and Black Hills region. The airport has initiated and completed several major steps to ensure the long-term viability of the airport and to enhance service to the aviation 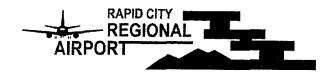user. To ensure long-range capabilities, an assessment of airport requirements, along with consideration of economic and industrial development opportunities and strategies, are major issues that need to be addressed as part of the Master Planning program.

All of these changes, opportunities, and constraints contribute to the need for a comprehensive review of the airport and its role in the community. The Master Plan Update for the Rapid City Regional Airport represents a unique and important opportunity to construct a clear vision of where the airport is in the present and where it should be going in the future. The Airport Master Plan Update is intended to serve as a medium for assembling community opinion, spirit, and concurrence.

Master Plan Program

The primary objective of the Airport Master Plan program is to evaluate both existing and future aviation needs, to determine long-range requirements, to assess site development alternatives, and to produce a plan which yields an economical, safe, and environmentally acceptable public facility. When approved by the various local, regional, state, and federal agencies, the Airport Master Plan Update represents the long-term intentions of all agencies regarding the location and extent of airport improvements. This permits long-range programming and budgeting, reduces lengthy review periods for

each project, and provides for orderly and timely development.

The Master Plan Update has been designed to provide an objective look at future airport needs and to answer some basic questions about the Rapid City Regional Airport. These include:

* *What is the airport's role?*
* *What are the existing and future airport facility requirements?*
* *What are the long-term federal, state, local, and private costs associated with future airport development?*
* *What financing options are available for continued improvement of airport facilities?*
* *How can airport revenues be enhanced?*
* *Is the current management/operational structure adequate? Should changes be made?*
* *How will airport development affect the surrounding environment?*
* *What effect does the airport have on industrial and economic development?*

In addition to answering these basic questions and identifying the airport facility requirements for the short- and long-term, other important issues the Master Plan Update will address include:

* an assessment of potential impacts of the proposed Dunbar Development;
* the identification of terminal requirements for possible intermodal rail links;
* the coordination of airport access to Interstate 90;
* the preparation of an on-airport Industrial/Commercial Development Plan;
* an analysis of the area tourism market;
* the identification of airport financing opportunities; and,
* the development of a Capital Improvement Program.

As shown in the table on the following page, the Airport Master Plan Update is being conducted in six phases to allow for input from the community and current and potential airport users, and to allow for coordination with the various government agencies, planning councils, and federal and state review agencies. The Airport Board, comprised of local officials, aviation users, and representatives of local business and industry, is also active to facilitate program coordination at the local and regional levels.

The development of the Airport Master Plan Update is evidence that the City recognizes the importance of aviation in the overall concept of community and transportation planning. With a sound, objective, and realistic Master Plan, the Airport can fulfill its role as an economic asset to the community and a source of pride and satisfaction to the residents of the area.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING PROGRAM
Rapid City Regional Airport Master Plan

<table>
<tr>
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PHASE 1

ELEMENT 1 - INVENTORY

o   Kick-off Meetings & Inventory
o   Inventory Current Conditions /
    Review Existing Data
o   Land Use / Transportation
o   Tourism
o   Airspace
◊   Working Paper #1

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PHASE 3

ELEMENT 5 - ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

o   Environmental Review
o   Environmental Analysis
o   Noise Contours
●   Summary Chapter

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ELEMENT 2 - AVIATION FORECASTS

o   Passenger Enplanements
o   Based Aircraft
o   Annual Operations
o   Aircraft Mix
o   Annual Instrument Activity
o   Peak Hour Forecasts
o   Cargo
o   Military Activity
◊   Working Paper #2
●   Project Meeting

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PHASE 4

ELEMENT 6 - AIRPORT PLANS

o   Airport Layout Drawings (Change #4)
o   Approach and Runway Protection Zones
o   Terminal & Building Area Drawing
o   Access Plan
o   Airport Land Use Plan
o   Airport Property Map

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ELEMENT 3 - FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

o   Requirements
o   Wind Analysis
o   Identification of Required Facilities
o   Phasing
o   Evaluation of Development Alternatives
◊   Working Paper #3
●   Project Meeting

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PHASE 5

ELEMENT 7 - PLAN EXECUTION

o   Schedule of Priorities
o   Cost Estimates
o   Financial Plan & Feasibility
o   Economic Environment
◊   Working Paper #5
●   Project Meeting
●   Public Information Meeting

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PHASE 2

ELEMENT 4 - ALTERNATIVES

o   Assessment of Alternatives
o   Assessment Criteria
o   Preliminary ALP
◊   Working Paper #4
●   Project Meeting
●   Public Information Meeting

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PHASE 6

ELEMENT 8 - FINAL REPORT/PLANS

o   Review/Type/Print
●   Final Report and Plans
●   Summary Report/Brochure

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The Master Plan Update program is designed to provide an objective look at the future airport role, and intended to permit the City to achieve a workable course of action. For the Master Plan Update to be successful, the following must occur:

* The City and Airport Board must be assured that all potential site development alternatives have been identified which are compatible with residential, corporate, and industrial development;

* Adequate data and analysis must be provided to bring about a consensus on the most desirable development options;

* The airport site and design improvements must be economically and financially feasible to develop, provide an adequate level of public services to the area, and meet State and Federal Aviation Administration design criteria for grant eligibility; and

* The nature of development is to be accomplished at minimum cost to the user and nonuser alike, without detrimental affects on the environment, and in concert with prevailing local, regional, state, and federal goals and programming plans. Overall, the objective of the Airport Master Plan Update is to provide for an airport facility that is:

* Safe

* Economically viable

* In fulfillment of broad local, regional, state and national goals

* Acceptable to the user and nonuser, general public

* Substantially user-supported