



Illinois Aviation System Plan (IASP) and Economic Impact Analysis (EIA) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting #2

Summary

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Attendees

- ◆ Douglas House (IDOT - Deputy Secretary)
- ◆ Clayton Stambaugh (IDOT)
- ◆ BJ Murray (IDOT)
- ◆ Alan Mlacnik (IDOT)
- ◆ Holly Bieneman (IDOT)
- ◆ Linda Schumm (IDOT)
- ◆ Troy Reiser (IDOT)
- ◆ Richard Borus (IDOT)
- ◆ Aaron Frame (City of Chicago)
- ◆ Clark Kaericher (Illinois Chamber of Commerce)
- ◆ John Hadley (NBAA)
- ◆ Jeff Olson (Hutchison Engineering)
- ◆ Jeff Schnobrich (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning)
- ◆ Jim Bildilli (Illinois Aviation)
- ◆ Kyle Lewis (AOPA)
- ◆ Ken Bro (Southern Illinois University)
- ◆ Mark Doles (DuPage Airport)
- ◆ Mike Brown (FAA)
- ◆ J. Goetz (Quad City International Airport)
- ◆ Ben Leischner (Quad City International Airport)
- ◆ Robert French (Illinois Aviation Trades Association)
- ◆ Gary Shafer (Southern Illinois Airport)
- ◆ Tim Wright (Decatur Airport)
- ◆ Pam Keidel-Adams (Kimley-Horn)
- ◆ Zach DeVeau (Kimley-Horn)
- ◆ Tom Gibson (Kimley-Horn)
- ◆ Brady Davis (Kimley-Horn)
- ◆ Melissa Kaplan (Kaplan & Mello Planning)

Meeting Overview

The Kimley-Horn Project Manager, Zach DeVeau, presented a PowerPoint that provided an outline of the presentation. The outline is provided below and will be summarized by section:

- ◆ Since We Last Met
- ◆ Project Update
- ◆ IASP Findings & EIA Data Collection
- ◆ Additional Tasks
- ◆ Next Steps

1. Since We Last Met

This portion of the presentation primarily focused on the impact COVID-19 has had on the aviation industry as well as the IASP and EIA:

- ◆ An overview of the history of Illinois' response to COVID-19
- ◆ Historical perspectives on events that had a negative affect on aviation and the recovery time for the industry were examined
- ◆ CARES Act funding for Illinois airports were presented
- ◆ Ben Leischner of Quad Cities International Airport noted a 50 percent decrease in traffic for the month of April with a 95 percent decrease in passengers through the airport, with less than 3,000 passengers travelling through the airport for the month. He also noted that

the airport has installed graphics to help promote social distancing, and clear barriers at service desks for an added sanitary precaution.

- ◆ Mark Doles of DuPage Airport stated that fuel sales for the month of April were down 60 percent at the airport

2. Project Update

This portion of the presentation focused on project developments since the TAC last met, most notably the commencement and completion of a number of virtual site visits:

- ◆ Virtual site visits were discussed, of which 15 have been completed and/or scheduled and another 48 are scheduled
- ◆ Mark Doles from DuPage Airport detailed his virtual site visit experience and said it was an “informative and thoughtful process” and noted it took less than two hours to complete
- ◆ Clayton Stambaugh encouraged everyone to think through what the future will look like. He emphasized that this is not just a plan they won’t be taking seriously and that this is a plan that will help the state as well as the airports

3. IASP Findings & EIA Data Collection

This portion of the presentation focused on preliminary findings from the surveys that have been completed, project team analyses, and site visits:

- ◆ Runway geometry assessment findings were discussed
- ◆ Drive time analyses findings were introduced
- ◆ Ben Leischner with Quad City International Airport stated that the results of the NPIAS drive time analyses did not include NPIAS airports outside of Illinois, so some populations near the state border may not be as underserved as they appear
- ◆ It was noted that the airport manager surveys will help gain insight on the number of employees at each airport, capital improvement projects and costs, and off-airport businesses that base aircraft at the airport to support their business
- ◆ It was stated that the project team will be conducting a thorough and thoughtful analysis that will include COVID-19 data and projected recovery forecasts

4. Additional Tasks

This portion focused on the additional tasks that will be completed during the system planning process:

- ◆ Illinois’ aviation issues will be identified throughout the system planning process and will include high-level pandemic response planning
- ◆ Per FAA guidance, aviation demand forecasting for airport master plans is on hold due to COVID-19. This may not be an issue for the system plan, but something Kimley-Horn and IDOT are monitoring closely. Mike Brown with FAA noted that he is in contact with the forecasting office at FAA headquarters and that they want COVID-19 factored into aviation forecasts, but that he is waiting for more clearly defined direction from headquarters
- ◆ The IASP is developing high-level environmental analyses to identify development constraints at airports due to environmental factors.
- ◆ The IASP is also conducting high-level obstruction analyses using the FAA’s obstacle files to identify obstructions within IASP airport approach surfaces. IDOT will be able to make

- funding decisions or prioritize certain airports based on severity of obstructions within the approach surfaces.
- ◆ The IASP is also evaluating modal connections near airports as well as helping to initiate discussions between airports and other modes of transportation at IDOT. The goal of the task is to promote integration of airports into the greater transportation system

5. Next Steps

This portion focused on the next steps the project team will complete:

- ◆ Incorporate TAC feedback
- ◆ Collect and compile IASP/EIA data
- ◆ Draft Inventory chapter
- ◆ Draft Environmental, Issues, and Intermodal Access Chapter
- ◆ Finalize economic survey effort
- ◆ Develop state airport classifications
- ◆ Draft Illinois Airport Classifications Chapter

Final Questions and Comments

- ◆ Doug House, Deputy Secretary of IDOT, expressed his excitement that we are in the midst of this study during the current global situation we are in with the Covid-19 pandemic. While he understands it brings challenges he says it also brings a unique opportunity and flexibility to capture unique data. He is looking forward to working with everyone
- ◆ Zach DeVeau, Kimley-Horn Project Manager, concurred that with the plan occurring when it did we will be able to make more informed decisions and cohesive plans while at the same time it provides flexibility
- ◆ Kyle Lewis, AOPA, asked about the Rates and Charges information being collected. Zach said that the team will be collecting only airport sponsored services and both airport- and FBO-sponsored tiedown information.
- ◆ Clayton Stambaugh, IDOT, acknowledged the concerns and said that when the state looks at this in future out years they might explore rates and charges of non-airport-sponsored services
- ◆ Clayton and BJ wrapped up the meeting with a few final words thanking the participants and the team