

INTRODUCTION

The Telluride Regional Airport master plan study was 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 that demand. The ultimate goal of the master plan was to provide systematic guidelines for the airport's overall maintenance, development, and operation.

The master plan is intended to be a proactive document which identifies and then plans for future facility needs well in advance of the actual need for the facilities. This is done to ensure that Telluride Regional Airport Authority (TRAA) can coordinate project approvals, design, financing, and construction in a timely manner prior to experiencing the detrimental effects of inadequate facilities.

An important result of the master plan is reserving sufficient areas for future facility needs. This protects development areas and ensures they will be readily available when required to meet future needs. The intended result is a detailed land use concept which outlines specific uses for all areas of airport property.

The preparation of this master plan is evidence that TRAA recognizes the importance of air transportation to the community and the associated challenges inherent in providing for its unique operating and improvement needs. The cost of maintaining an airport is an investment, which yields impressive benefits to the community. With a sound and realistic master plan, Telluride Regional Airport can maintain its role as an important link to the national air transportation system for



the community and maintain the existing public and private investments in its facilities.

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Telluride Regional Airport master plan is to develop and maintain a financially feasible long-term development program which will satisfy aviation demand and be compatible with community development, other transportation modes, and the environment. The accomplishment of this objective requires the evaluation of the existing airport and a determination of what actions should be taken to maintain an adequate, safe, and reliable airport facility to meet the air transportation needs of the area. The completed master plan will provide an outline of the necessary development and give responsible officials advance notice of future needs to aid in planning, scheduling, and budgeting.

Specific objectives of the Telluride Regional Airport master plan are:

- Preserve and protect the Authority's investment in the airport;
- Enhance the safety of aircraft operations;
- Determine the critical aircraft for airport design and construction;
- Examine regional jet capabilities and opportunities at the airport;

- Determine the benefits of regional jets to air service at the airport;
- Determine regional jet air service demand at the airport;
- Examine opportunities for added flights to Denver and its impact on airport operations and air service demand;
- Provide for a preferred alternative for airfield development that safely accommodates the mix of aircraft using the airport;
- Be reflective of community goals, needs, and plans;
- Identify compatible land use planning strategies;
- Consider environmental needs and sensitivities;
- Develop a plan that is responsive to air transportation demands; and
- Develop an orderly plan for the use of the airport.

The master plan will accomplish these objectives by carrying out the following:

- Determining projected needs of airport users through the year 2020;
- Identifying existing and future facility needs;

- Evaluating future airport facility development alternatives which will optimize airport capacity and aircraft safety;
- Developing a realistic, common-sense plan for the use and/or expansion of the airport;
- Developing land use strategies for the use of airport property;
- Developing compatible land use strategies;
- Establishing a schedule of development priorities and a program for improvements;
- Analyzing the airport's financial requirements for capital improvement needs and grant options;
- Coordinating this master plan with local, regional, state, and federal agencies; and
- Developing active and productive public involvement through the planning process.

MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS AND PROCESS

The Telluride Regional Airport master plan is being prepared in a systematic fashion following Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines and industry-accepted principles and practices. The master plan for Telluride Regional Airport has six general elements which are intended to assist in the discovery of future facility needs

and provide the supporting rationale for their implementation. **Exhibit IA** provides a graphical depiction of the Telluride Regional Airport master plan process and elements.

Element One encompasses the inventory efforts. The inventory efforts are focused on the collecting and assembling of relevant data pertaining to the airport and the area the airport serves. The inventory effort collects information on existing airport facilities, operations, and control. Local economic and demographic data is collected to define the local growth trends. Planning studies which may have relevance to the master plan are also collected. Information collected during the inventory efforts is summarized in Chapter One, Inventory.

Element Two examines the potential aviation demand for commercial air service and general aviation activity at the airport. This analysis utilizes local socioeconomic information, as well as national air transportation trends to quantify the levels of aviation activity which can reasonably be expected to occur at Telluride Regional Airport through the year 2020. The results of this effort are used to determine the types and sizes of facilities which will be required to meet the projected aviation demands for Telluride Regional Airport over the next 20 years. The results of this analysis are presented in Chapter Two, Aviation Demand Forecasts.

Element Three comprises the facility requirements analysis. The intent of this analysis is to compare the existing facility capacities to forecast aviation

demand and determine where deficiencies in capacities (as well as excess capacities) may exist. Where deficiencies are identified, the size and type of new facilities to accommodate the demand are identified. The airfield analysis focuses on improvements needed to serve the type of aircraft expected to operate at the airport and navigational aids to increase the safety and efficiency of operations. This element also includes a determination of passenger terminal building and general aviation facility needs. The findings of this analysis will be presented in Chapter Three, Facility Needs Evaluation.

Element Four considers a series of reasonable solutions to accommodate the projected facility needs. This element proposes various facility and site plan configurations which meet the projected facility needs. A thorough analysis is completed to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of each proposed development alternative with the intention of determining a single direction for development. Chapter Four, Airport Development Alternatives, comprises the results of the work efforts given to completing this element.

Element Five includes two independent, yet interrelated, work efforts: a capital implementation program and airport plans. This element will comprise Chapters Five and Six of the master plan. Chapter Five provides both a graphic and narrative description of the recommended plan for the use, development and operation of the airport. Specifics on environmental concerns and compatible land use

strategies are also provided. Appendix B to the master plan includes the official Airport Layout Plan and detailed technical drawings depicting related airspace, land use, and property data. These drawings are used by the FAA in determining grant eligibility and funding. Chapter Six focuses on the capital needs program which defines the schedules, costs, and funding sources for the recommended development projects.

COORDINATION

The Telluride Regional Airport master plan is of interest to many within the local community. This includes local citizens, community organizations, airport users, airport tenants, area-wide planning agencies, and aviation organizations. As an important component of the regional, state, and national aviation system, the Telluride Regional Airport master plan is of importance to both state and federal agencies responsible for overseeing air transportation.

To assist in the development of the Telluride Regional Airport master plan, the TRAA board acted in an advisory and oversight role in the development of the master plan. The TRAA board reviewed phase reports and provided comment throughout the study to help ensure that a realistic, viable plan was developed.

To assist in the review process, draft phase reports were prepared at three milestones in the planning process as shown previously on **Exhibit IA**. The draft phase report process allowed for input and review during each step



INVENTORY

- Airport Facilities
- Airspace and Air Traffic Activity
- Area Socioeconomic Data
- Local Planning and Land Use
- Airport Access and Parking, Drainage and Utilities, and Aerial Photography

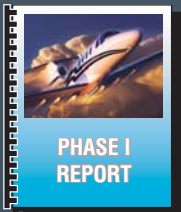
FORECASTS

- Based Aircraft and Fleet Mix
- Annual Operations
- Air Service



FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Design Categories
- Runway Length and Strength
- Access Capacity
- Taxiways
- Hangar Facilities
- Terminal Building
- Access and Parking
- Aprons
- Navigational Aids
- Support



AIRPORT ALTERNATIVES

- Evaluate Development Scenarios
 - Airside
 - Landside



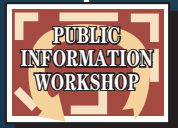
RECOMMENDED DEVELOPMENT PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

- Detailed Master Plan Facility and Land Use Plans
- Review/Evaluation of NEPA Environmental Categories
- Noise Exposure
- Wetlands Inventory
- Land Use and Zoning Recommendations



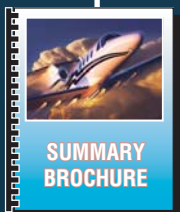
FINANCIAL PLAN

- Airport Development Schedule
- Cost Estimates
- Funding Sources



AIRPORT LAYOUT PLANS

- Airport Layout Plan
- Terminal Area Drawing
- Airspace/Approach Drawings
- On-Airport Land Use Plan
- Property Map
- Off Airport Land Use Plan



within the master plan process to ensure that all master plan issues were fully addressed as the recommended program was developed. A series of public information workshops were also included as part of the plan coordination. The public information workshop allowed the public to provide

input and learn about general information concerning the master plan. The master plan was also coordinated with the San Miguel County Planning Commission, which recommended its approval by the County Board of Commissioners.