HOW WILL FUTURE AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS BE FUNDED?

The FAA manages the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) established by Congress to provide funding to airports on a priority basis. Revenues for this program are generated through taxes on aviation activity exclusively, such as the sale of aviation fuel and oil, aircraft, aircraft parts, and airline tickets. Several airport improvement projects will be eligible for funding through the AIP. The remaining costs are generally funded through a combination of grants from ADOT (Aeronautics Group) and local resources generated from airport activities.

WHEN WILL THESE IMPROVEMENTS BE BUILT?

Projects will usually be initiated when demand dictates the need for development. The forecasts will identify a timeline in which development might reasonably be anticipated; however, if activity does not materialize as quickly as forecasted, then development envisioned by the Master Plan would be delayed accordingly. Conversely, if demand were to accelerate, projects could be initiated prior to the timeline associated with the Master Plan.

Airport staff will monitor aviation activity at the airport annually to determine whether activity is tracking as projected and which projects from the Master Plan should be programmed into the airport’s five-year capital improvement program (CIP).

If you have additional questions about the Master Plan, please contact:

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OVERVIEW

Grand Canyon National Park Airport is located immediately south of the unincorporated community of Tusayan in the Kaibab National Forest, and six miles south of the Grand Canyon National Park. The airport is accessible via Arizona Highway 64, which traverses the east side of the airport and extends northward through Tusayan to the main gate of the park’s South Rim. Classified in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) as a non-hub commercial service airport, the airport offers a wide variety of aviation amenities to its users.

The airport is owned by the State of Arizona and operated by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The Airport Master Plan has been initiated for Grand Canyon National Park Airport to provide proper guidance for existing and future development, which will satisfy aviation demands while maintaining compatibility with the surrounding environment.

Specific Master Plan objectives for Grand Canyon National Park Airport are:

- Maintain and ensure safety and security for the Airport;
- Plan for phased, incremental development that meets foreseeable aviation demand and maintains flexibility for change; and
- Evaluate sustainability options and environmental requirements.

WHAT IS AN AIRPORT MASTER PLAN?

An Airport Master Plan evaluates the airport’s aviation demand and provides an overview of the systematic airport development that will best meet those demands. The Master Plan will establish development objectives and provide for a 20-year planning period. Development objectives will be arranged in order of priority based upon airport demand milestones. The Airport Master Plan will also detail the rationale for each of the various study elements, including airfield configuration, facility development, airport access, land use recommendations, and support facilities.

The Master Plan’s goal is to accommodate the airport’s needs in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner while adhering to appropriate Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) safety design standards. Alternative development scenarios will also be devised, each satisfying projected needs in a unique way. Through coordinated review by the FAA, ADOT, airport users, and general public, a recommended development concept will evolve which serves as a guide to realistic and achievable airport development. The Master Plan then acts as a guide to aid decision-makers when considering future airport improvements.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF UPDATING THE MASTER PLAN?

A Master Plan is necessary as a timely reassessment of the development direction of the airport to meet the needs of a dynamic local economy and an ever-changing air transportation industry. Airport Master Plans are commonly updated every five to ten years. The previous Master Plan for Grand Canyon National Park Airport was completed in 2006.

In order to ensure that the airport is meeting the demands of all users and continuing to be an asset to the region, reassessment of the current development direction is especially beneficial. The Master Plan will include an evaluation of airport-related development areas with regard to aviation forecasts, demand/capacity, airport design standards, facility requirements, land use, costs, environmental reviews, sustainable management, and opportunities. It will also serve as a strategic tool for establishing airport improvement priorities and obtaining funding.

HOW CAN THE PUBLIC PROVIDE INPUT?

Public participation is encouraged throughout the development of the Master Plan for Grand Canyon National Park Airport. A series of open-house public information workshops are planned at interim points during the study process. These workshops are designed to provide an opportunity for all interested persons to become informed and provide input on the Master Plan. Notices of meeting dates and locations will be advertised through local media outlets and on the ADOT website at the following address: http://www.azdot.gov/gcnairportmasterplan.

Detailed “working papers,” which are draft chapters of the Master Plan report, will also be made available online.