

## MEETING NOTES:

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**Project Number:** RS&H 210-000-5000

**Meeting Date:** Amended April 19, 2017; Original Publication October 19, 2016

**Meeting Place:** International Room, Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA)

**Participants:** Master Plan Update Advisory Committee (MPAC)

**Subject:** First Meeting

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### The following is a summary of the First Master Plan Update Advisory Committee Meeting:

- Phillip Johnson, A.A.E, Acting President & CEO of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority (GFIAA) introduced Roy Hawkins, Airport Planning Engineer. Mr. Hawkins and master plan consultant Jeffrey Mishler, RS&H, Inc. conducted the meeting.
- A PowerPoint presentation consisting of seven agenda items was discussed with the MPAC: Introductions, Master Plan Update Purpose, MPAC Role, Master Plan Update Process, Overview of Master Plan Update Issues pertaining to Airport Facilities and FAA Requirements, Goals & Objectives, and Schedule.
- This MPAC meeting was the first of six meetings that are scheduled to occur over the next 18 months.
- During introduction of the MPAC members, Airport Staff, and Consultants, attendees were encouraged to add comments and ask questions during the presentation.
- The purpose of the Master Plan Update was described both from the perspective of the FAA and the Sponsor. For the GFIAA, the Master Plan Update will provide a short-, intermediate-, and long-term vision, extending beyond the normal 20-year planning process as well as meet FAA regulatory obligations. These FAA obligations include FAA approval of forecasts, setting up the Airport Geographic Information System (AGIS), conducting a full property boundary survey, addressing the new FAA policy pertaining to Runway Protection Zones (RPZs), and approval of the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) that is required for GFIAA to obtain federal grants.
- The advisory nature of the MPAC was identified along with its role to facilitate public involvement and communicating information about the Master Plan Update throughout the community.
- The Master Plan Update includes a public involvement program that incorporates opportunities for public information meetings and dissemination of information throughout the community through an Airport website specific for the project as well as through other social media and public announcements, email list, and legal notices.

- The four stages of the Master Plan Update process were outlined: Pre-Planning (going on now), an Investigation Phase (beginning), a Solutions Phase, and an Implementation Phase.
- General issues were identified for study relative to the airfield, terminal, and landside access. This was followed by a more specific discussion of airport facility and FAA issues. Airport facilities issues identified included future terminal expansion, new Airport Traffic Control Tower (ATCT), future north runway, new airport access options, cargo, consolidation of maintenance facilities, future corporate area and FBO area expansions, and land development (aeronautical and non-aeronautical). FAA issues included addressing new FAA guidance regarding airfield geometry, RPZs, obstruction analysis, and boundary survey. Also, the Master Plan Update will study the implications for providing protection for future airspace needs relative to One Engine Inoperative (OEI). In very general terms, OEI surfaces refer to the airspace required to clear obstacles during one-engine out departure situations. OEI surfaces will be studied in anticipation of a future FAA planning policy for which the FAA has an ongoing pilot program.
- Categories for long-term Airport Goals and Objectives were identified. MPAC members will be receiving a Goals & Objectives Working Paper in late February.
- The presentation generated good discussion and a number of very helpful comments were received. The following is a summary of comments:
  - Recognized need for public involvement during the Master Plan Update process.
  - Questioned whether there were aspects left of the 2004 Master Plan that have not been addressed. Everything was completed except demand driven items.
  - Recommended inclusion of persons with intermodal interests in the Master Plan Update process such as the Rapid be included as part of the MPAC. GFIAA to investigate.
  - Suggested incorporation of local master plans and intermodal transportation plans. (This is part of the project scope).
  - Recommended Master Plan Update will look at all utilities to accommodate expanded regional growth - roads, water, sewer, gas, power and communications.
  - Cited that innovation/technology advances be evaluated along with tower construction to consider the timing for ATCT construction versus the timing for technology rollout. GFIAA to investigate.
  - Recommended Master Plan Update to look at alternatives for airport access to Patterson Avenue, including possibilities for a 36<sup>th</sup> Street/Thornapple River Drive/M-6 rideshare lot. The Master Plan Update also needs to look at potential railroad access. GFIAA to investigate.
  - Commented that the Master Plan Update must consider the governance structure and that the Authority was a huge step in the right direction. How the airport is structured provides a great opportunity for the region.
  - Indicated that, in light of the Authority, there needs to be regional outreach to other West Michigan communities. (Muskegon, Kalamazoo, etc.). GFIAA to investigate.
  - Recognized the potential for a Federal Inspection Station (FIS) for international flights to various locations. In process.
  - Observed need for railroad interconnections, Convention and Arena Authority coordination, additional meeting rooms at/near the airport, and to review the potential for additional meeting areas. These potential opportunities are being evaluated as part of the Master Plan Update project.

- Identified need to look through a “Regional Lens” throughout the Master Plan Update process which is an opportunity to be visionary. (Cargo Site, Rail Issue Chicago/Muskegon, FEDEX). These items were briefly discussed. This is a primary goal of the Master Plan Update process.
- Committee requested a focus on out-of-the-box thinking to place the airport in a competitive position.
- **Meeting Notes Amended April 19, 2017**
  - Noted the need to review availability of utilities for GFIA and surrounding communities.
  - Noted the need to review public transportation and passenger rail type connections to the Airport.