



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Due to a number of changes at both the Airport and within the industry as a whole, the City of Tyler undertook an update to the Tyler Pounds Regional Airport (TYR) Master Plan, which was previously updated in 1995. One of the primary reasons is based upon the Federal Aviation requirements associated with airports receiving development grants to conduct periodic updates to their airport development plans. In addition, in the wake of September 11, 2001, its impact on the aviation industry as a whole as well as changes within the Tyler Texas region, all have impacted the Airport in a number of ways.

The airport's master plan serves a variety of functions including projecting future aviation activity and development, being a tool for financial planning, and guiding on-airport and adjacent land uses. The primary objective of the master plan update was to create a 20-year development program that would maintain a safe, efficient, economical, and environmentally acceptable airport facility for the City of Tyler and Smith County. By achieving this objective, the document should provide guidance to satisfy the aviation demand in a financially feasible and responsible manner, while addressing the aviation, environmental and socioeconomic issues of the community. In support of this goal, the following objectives were considered:

- Identifying the needed airside, landside, and airspace improvements and recommend options to further optimize the economic aspects of the airport while enhancing the safety and operational capability;
- Establishing an implementation schedule for short-, intermediate-, and long-term improvements and insure that they are financially feasible;
- Identifying short-term requirements and recommend actions to optimize short-term funding opportunities;
- Insuring that short-term actions and recommendations do not preclude long-range planning options;
- Incorporating the interests of the public and government agencies into the planning process;
- Remaining sensitive to the overall environmental characteristics and needs of the area surrounding the airport; and
- Incorporating current comprehensive land use (both on- and off-airport property) and recommend developments that are compatible with existing and future land uses.

As suggested by the above listing, the airport does not exist in a static environment, but rather within the context of a larger community. As such, any future developments identified by this study consider potential community impacts. Multiple opportunities were available for community and governmental representatives to participate in this study, including through representatives serving on the study's technical advisory committee and through three public meetings. Additionally, the Airport Advisory Board was briefed regularly in an open public forum, allowing for public comments on the presented study information. It is important to note that the study results and the future developments presented in this report represent a plan to guide the Airport Advisory Board in meeting demands as they develop; therefore, no development should be undertaken until there is a clearly identified need for it.



KEY ISSUES

Overall, this master plan provides a comprehensive overview of the airport's needs over the next 20 years, including issues related to the timing of proposed development, costs for this development, methods of financing, management options, and a clear plan of action. Prior to the start of this master plan update, there were a number of key issues identified by Airport Management, requiring attention, including:

- Evaluating existing pavement conditions and considering the development of a pavement management plan that maximizes pavement life and funding over time.
- Evaluating airfield development options that address the primary runway length requirements, runway safety area standards, additional precision approach capability, and future airfield capacity.
- Evaluating long-term development options for general aviation, and maximizing airside access to general aviation facilities.
- Developing options to re-use existing facilities such as the old terminal area, and other vacant facilities.
- Developing options to locate and construct a new air traffic control tower.
- Considering options to improve airline service, including opportunities for enhanced service into major hub cities not presently served.
- Evaluating ground access to existing and future airport development areas with emphasis on minimizing existing impacts to the accessibility of existing airport uses, and future on-airport development areas.
- Compatible land use considerations adjacent to TYR.
- Identifying future aviation development areas within the current boundaries of the Airport.
- Potential industrial development opportunities associated with existing and potential industrial areas within the boundaries of TYR.
- Balancing airside development with a portion of the landside property that needs to be considered and ultimately reserved for other revenue generating purposes.
- Environmental Factors that may act to limit or guide the development of airport property.

This master plan update provides a systematic outline of the development actions required to maintain and further develop airfield and landside facilities. This process provides the officials responsible for scheduling, budgeting and ultimate funding of airport improvement projects with an advance notice of the future needs of the Airport. By phasing airport improvements, the development can be conducted in an orderly and timely fashion.

This master plan update for TYR was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the FAA, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and the needs of the airport management and the City of Tyler. All portions of this document are based upon the criteria set forth in FAA Advisory Circulars (AC) 150/5070-6B, Airport Master Plans, and AC 150/5300-13, Change 9, Airport Design. To accomplish the objectives identified, the study included the following tasks:

- Conducting an inventory of existing documents related to the airport, the physical airport facilities, demographics of the airport service area, and airport environment;
- Collecting historical operational data, conducting tenant interviews, and forecasting aviation activity through the year 2023;
- Evaluating and comparing the airfield capacity to expected aviation activity;
- Determine the airport facilities required to meet forecast demand;
- Develop and evaluate alternative methods to meet airfield and landside facility requirements;
- Create a concise Airport Layout Plan (ALP) drawing set reflecting the proposed improvements through the year 2023; and



- Compiling a schedule of the proposed improvements, including cost estimates, phasing and financial feasibility of each proposed improvement.

Throughout this process, reviews of the master plan report were conducted at key points such as at the completion of the forecasts and during development of the alternatives. This ensured that input was received from key stakeholders, such as airport management, FAA and TxDOT. The individual report chapters provide a detailed explanation of these key steps. It should be noted that each step in the master plan process built upon information and decision made during the previous steps. Taken as a whole, the master plan process addressed key issues as identified above as well as illustrates how the study objectives were met.