Birchwood Airport Master Plan Update

Project No. CFAPT00354/AIP 3-02-0034-008-2018

Public Meeting #2

Prepared for Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Presented and facilitated by HDL Engineering Consultants & Agnew::Beck Consulting

October 27, 2021; 6:00 – 8:00 PM



6:00 p.m. – 6:10 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions

About Our Team

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is leading the process with assistance from a consulting team:









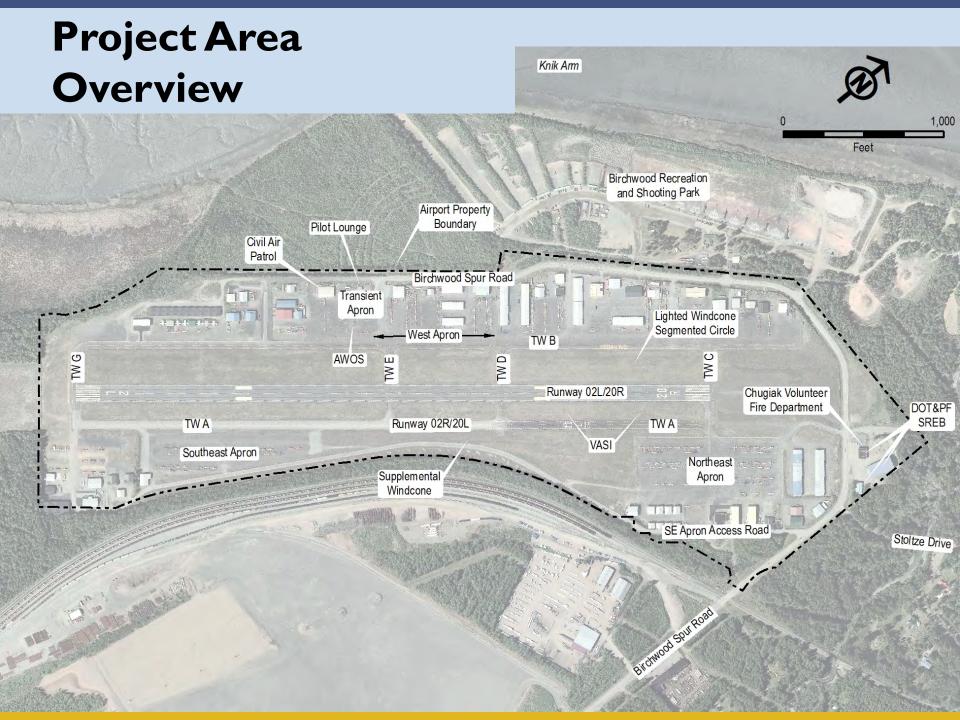


Land Acknowledgement

Dena'inaq ełnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)

Translation by J. Isaak and S. Shaginoff-Stuart

I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina. (English)

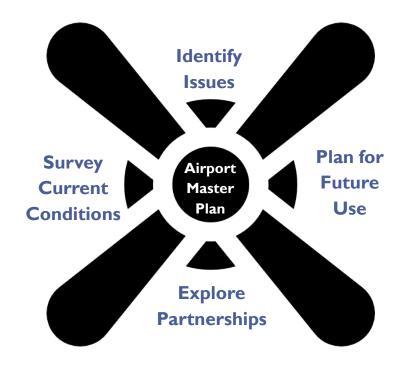


Land Ownership



Project Purpose

To determine how the airport can best serve the future interests and needs of the flying public, aviation community, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF), and other stakeholders.



Project Schedule



Community involvement occurs throughout, including interviews, stakeholder working group meetings, and three public meetings

Progress Since March 2021

- Aviation Activity Forecast
- Financial Assessment
- Land Use Assessment
- Frequently Asked Questions

Meeting Purpose

- Review the project and purpose.
- Update on progress and gather input on:
 - Financial analysis
 - Land use assessment,
 - Aviation activity forecast
 - Preliminary alternatives.
- Discuss alternatives survey and next steps in the planning process

Meeting Agenda

Item	Timing
Welcome & Introductions	10 minutes
 Land Acknowledgement Birchwood AMP Purpose & Schedule Meeting Purpose 	
Financial Assessment	5 minutes
 How does the money work? What are Birchwood Airport's revenue and expenses? How do Birchwood Airport finances and operations compare to similar AK airports? 	
Land Use Assessment	5 minutes
What are the intended future land uses for the Birchwood Airport and adjacent lands?	
FAA Framework & Context	5 minutes
How do federal policies and criteria impact the Birchwood today and future operations?	
Aviation Forecasts & Alternatives	I hour 25 minutes
 What is the historic use, and current and anticipated future demands at the Birchwood Airport? 	
 What options are being considered to best preserve interests and meet needs at the Birchwood Airport? 	
Next Steps and Wrap Up	10 minutes

General Meeting Guidelines

- Be respectful.
- Be positive and solutions oriented.
- Be clear and concise.
- Be specific.
- Avoid jargon and acronyms.
- Think creatively and strategically.

Online & Telephonic Meeting Guidelines

Please:

- I. Follow Shelly's lead as the designated facilitator.
 - Throughout the meeting, participants will have several opportunities to comment or ask questions.
- 2. Mute your microphone when you are not talking.
- 3. If you have joined by video, don't forget everyone can see you ©.
- 4. We will do introductions, but please repeat your name when it is your turn to comment or ask a question.
- 5. Please limit use of the Zoom chat space, unless prompted by a guiding question, or you're having a technical issue.

6:10 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Financial Assessment

Where does Birchwood Airport revenue go?

 All profit from DOT&PF airports go to a general aviation fund.

 This money funds maintenance and operations for all DOT&PF airports.

 DOT&PF is required to provide access to all Alaska communities, so it prioritizes maintenance in communities off the road system.

Financial Assessment

 Northern Economics, Inc. prepared a comprehensive financial assessment of the Birchwood Airport.

The assessment used data from 2015-2020.

 The assessment includes revenue, expenses and a comparison to two similar airports.

Birchwood Airport's Revenue and Expenses

The Birchwood Airport has had an operating profit over the last six years.

Table 2.1 Birchwood Airport Revenues, Expenses, and Operating Profits, \$, FY 2015–2020

Fiscal Year	Revenue	Expenses	Operating Profit
2015	208,165.98	66,793.98	141,372.00
2016	201,024.25	57,423.97	143,600.28
2017	200,555.79	134,124.85	66,430.94
2018	243,716.10	99,907.24	143,808.86
2019	258,990.50	97,672.78	161,317.72
2020	273,832.14	147,209.04	126,623.10

Source: DOT&PF (2021)

Excerpted from the May 2021 Birchwood AMP Update: Financial Assessment

Top Revenue Sources

FY2020 Revenue:

• 70% came from lease fees or "land use."

25% came from tie-downs and parking.

 Fees and fuel permits make up the remaining 5%.

Top Revenue Sources

Revenue grew 36.5% from FY 2017 to FY 2020.

Table 2.2 Birchwood Airport Revenue Detail, \$, FY 2015–2020

Fiscal Year	Assigned Aircraft Tie- down/Transient Parking	Fuel Dispensing Permit	Interest/Late Fees	Application/ Process Fees	Land Use	Total Revenue
2015						208,165.98
2016						201,024.25
2017	50,937.19	2,895.35	260.73	1,050.00	145,412.52	200,555.79
2018	68,718.00	4,721.14	243.28	4,225.00	165,808.68	243,716.10
2019	68,756.16	10,982.53	396.59	3,775.00	175,080.22	258,990.50
2020	68,723.00	5,137.15	212.52	8,025.00	191,734.47	273,832.14

Source: DOT&PF (2021)

Excerpted from the May 2021 Birchwood AMP Update: Financial Assessment

Top Expenses

• The Birchwood Airport's most significant expenses in FY 2020 were facilities and capital improvements.

Historically, services were the largest expenses.

Table 2.3 Birchwood Airport Expense Detail, \$, FY 2015–2020

Fiscal Year	Personal Services	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Facilities	Total Expenses
2015	24,630.88	6,289.18	35,873.92			66,793.98
2016	26,887.86	5,296.41	25,239.70			57,423.97
2017	74,387.00	51,310.18	8,427.67			134,124.85
2018	45,629.06	42,344.99	11,933.19			99,907.24
2019	42,399.96	46,883.01	8,389.81			97,672.78
2020	27,708.92	10,715.40	5,429.71	25,207.05	78,147.96	147,209.04

Source: DOT&PF (2021)

Excerpted from the May 2021 Birchwood AMP Update: Financial Assessment

Benchmarking

Northern Economics, Inc. compared the Birchwood Airport with similar facilities in Wasilla and Soldotna



Benchmarking

Table 4.2 Estimated Operations and Based Aircraft at Birchwood, Soldotna, and Wasilla Airports, 2020

Airport	Total Operations	Based Aircraft
Birchwood	67,047	308
Soldotna	21,100	169
Wasilla	42,660	168

NOTE: For Birchwood, includes touch-and-go landings.

Benchmarking

Birchwood Airport's operating expenses are lower than the city-owned comparable facilities, largely due to a lack of on-site staff.

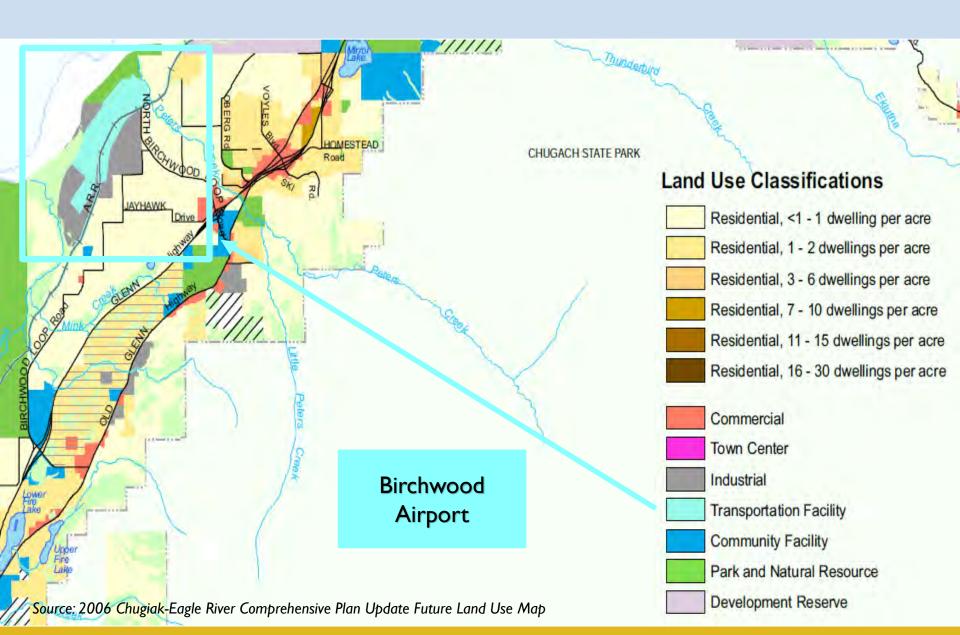
Total 2020 Operating Expenses			
Birchwood Airport	Soldotna Airport	Wasilla Airport	
\$147,209	\$149,848	\$214,392	

Excerpted from the May 2021 Birchwood AMP Update: Financial Assessment

6:15 p.m. – 6:20 p.m.

Land Use Assessment

Future Land Use



Future Land Use

- Past and current versions of future land use maps continually show the Birchwood Airport and surrounding areas as predominantly transportation, industrial, recreation, and low density residential.
- Adjacent landowners reported no plans that conflict with airport operations.

Existing Zoning

The Birchwood Airport is zoned as "light industrial." Adjacent land is mostly industrial and low-density residential.



Birchwood Airport Inventory

 In 2020, 308 aircraft were based at the airport.

- The airport includes 67 lease lots and 119 tie-downs.
 - Lease lots and tie-downs are generally all occupied.

Adjacent Lands

 Eklutna, Inc. is the largest nearby landowner, owning several parcels to the north and south.

 The Alaska Railroad owns 174 acres to the east.

 The Birchwood Recreation Shooting Park sits on 72 acres to the west.

Expansion Opportunities



Expansion Opportunities

 The Airport is framed by Cook Inlet to the west, the railroad to the east and Peter's Creek to the north.

- The most feasible expansion would be through acquisition of Eklutna, Inc. land to the south.
 - IMPORTANT: The Eklutna Tribe would assess any Eklutna, Inc. lands for cultural and archaeological assets prior to selling.

6:20 p.m. – 6:25 p.m.

FAA Framework & Context

FAA roles during planning process

The recommendations contained in an airport master plan represent the views, policies and development plans of the airport sponsor and do not necessarily represent the views of the FAA.

FAA advises on standards, eligibility/requirements for projects, sound planning practices, and other matters as needed.

Ultimately, FAA:

- Accepts the overall master plan
- Approves the forecast and critical aircraft determination
- Conditionally approves the Airport Layout Plan (ALP)

FAA acceptance/approval of the above does not constitute a commitment to participate in any development depicted in the plan, nor does it indicate that the proposed development is environmentally acceptable in accordance with appropriate public law.

Airport Improvement Program

Historically, \$214M annual avg (within Alaska)

Approximately \$8.3M at BCV in past 10 years

Projects to preserve/enhance airport safety, capacity, security, and environmental concerns.

A few requirements for AIP projects:

- Eligible for AIP program
- Justified by civil aeronautical demand (e.g., critical aircraft)
- Meet FAA standards
- Depicted on approved ALP

Needs within the system exceed available funds.

6:25 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

Aviation Forecast & Alternatives

Results from Aviation Activity Forecast

- The Aviation Activity Forecast for operations is based on observed and recorded aviation activity.
- Aviation activity data was recorded using a General Audio Recording Device (G.A.R.D.)* between July 21 and August 16, 2020, and September 2 and October 2, 2020.
- FAA Approval September 15, 2021

^{*}The G.A.R.D. records radio transmissions and operations through radar surveillance based on active aircraft transponders and cross-references transponders with the FAA's Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) registry to identify the make and model of the aircraft.

Results from Aviation Activity Forecast

- Critical Aircraft A-I (small) (Cessna 172/182).
- No changes to current uses have been forecasted.
- 80% are training operations.

	Current (2020)	Forecasted (2040)
Total Airport Operations and Training Operations	~67,000	~76,300
Tie-downs	119	157
Lease lots	67	92

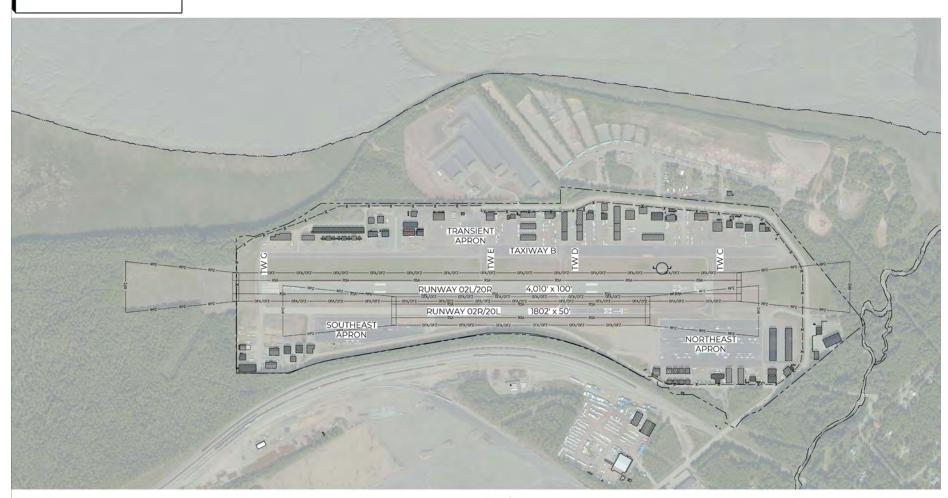
Development of Alternatives

Four potential Alternatives have been developed. Alternatives are based on:

- Critical aircraft.
- Facility requirements identified during interviews and inventory.
- Future gravel/ski strip location.
- Forecasted need for more tie-down permits and lease lots.

Proposed Alternative One

ALTERNATIVE 1 - NO BUILD



LEGEND

RUNWAY SAFETY AREA OBJECT FREE AREA/ZONE RUNWAY PROTECTION ZONE





3335 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 100 Anchorage, AK 99503

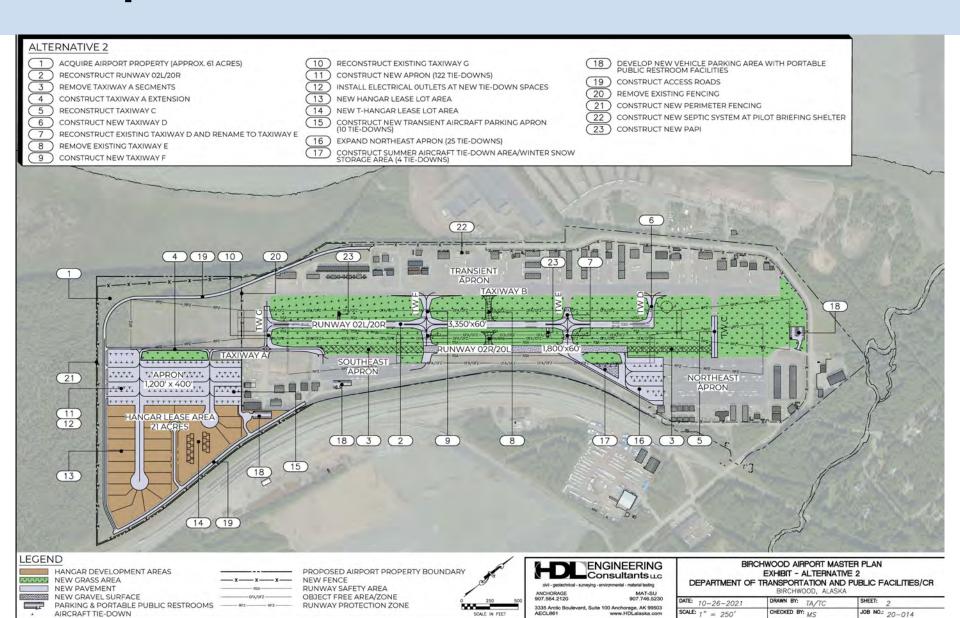
BIRCHWOOD AIRPORT MASTER PLAN
EXHIBIT - ALTERNATIVE 1
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES/CR
BIRCHWOOD, ALASKA

DATE: 10-26-2021 DRAWN BY: TA/TC SHEET: 1

SCALE: 1" CFC/C CHECKED BY: 110 JOB NO.: 00 044

Proposed Alternative Two

AIRCRAFT TIE-DOWN



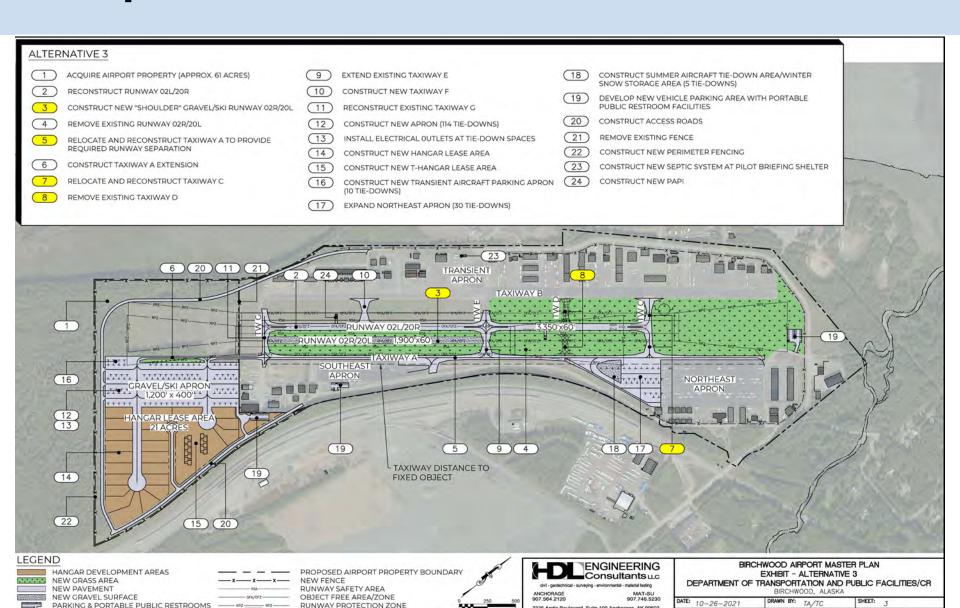
Proposed Alternative Three

RUNWAY PROTECTION ZONE

CHANGES COMPARED TO ALTERNATIVE 2

PARKING & PORTABLE PUBLIC RESTROOMS

AIRCRAFT TIE-DOWN



CHECKED BY: MS

JOB NO.: 20-014

SCALE: 1" = 250"

Proposed Alternative Four

OBJECT FREE AREA/ZONE

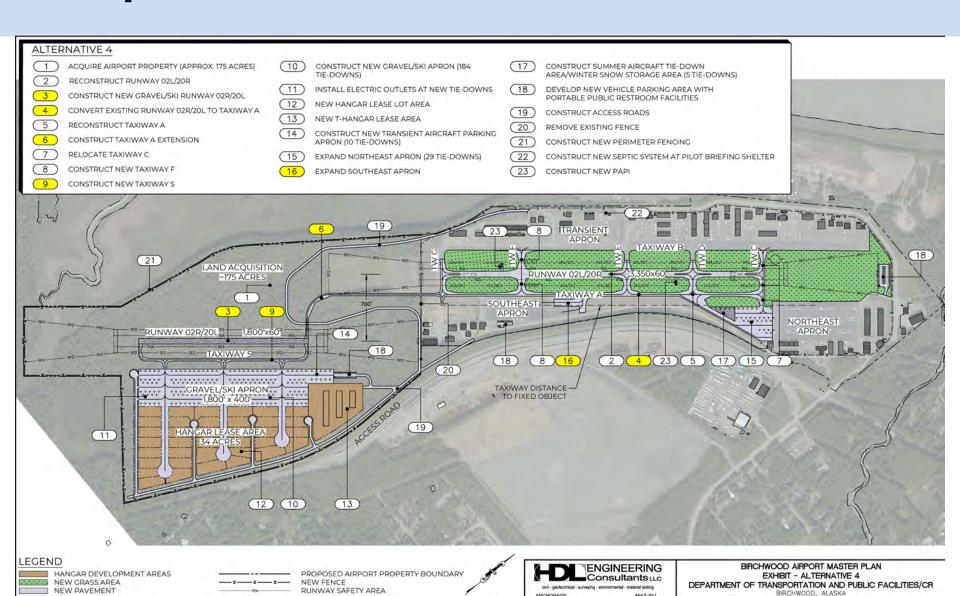
RUNWAY PROTECTION ZONE

CHANGES COMPARED TO ALTERNATIVE 3

NEW GRAVEL SURFACE

AIRCRAFT TIE-DOWN

PARKING & PORTABLE PUBLIC RESTROOMS



DRAWN BY: TA/TC

JOB NO.: 20-014

CHECKED BY: MS

DATE: 10-26-2021

3335 Arctic Boulevard, Suite 100 Anchorage, AK 99503 AECL861 www.HDLalaska.com

Alternatives Comparison

	Alt 1 – No Build	Alt 2 – Remove In- Line Taxiways	Alt 3 – Shoulder Gravel/Ski Runway	Alt 4 – Relocated Gravel/Ski Runway
Meets FAA parallel runway separation requirements for runways with simultaneous operations	No	No	No	Yes
Does not require a Modification to Standards (MOS) for Runway Separation	No	No	No	Yes
Future Runway improvements are AIP eligible if MOS is attained	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Removes in-line taxiways and improves airport safety	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Provides leasable land and apron space to accommodate growth	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Apron areas are located outside of RPZs	No	No	Yes	Yes
Does not require FAA HQ approval for development justification for ski/gravel runway development	N/A	No	No	No
Maintains current runway operations	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Establishes a parallel taxiway on the east side of the airport	No	No	Yes	Yes
Separation between the runways makes it clear to pilots that simultaneous operations are or are not allowed	No	No	Yes	Yes

7:50 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Next Steps and Wrap Up

Potential Public/Private Partnership ("3P")



Today the airport is operated and managed by the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF).



Third party private management is being considered as part of this Master Plan Update.



IMPORTANT: This part of the AMP Update process has not happened. This task is expected to be completed in Summer 2022.

Our Scope of Work for this FUTURE TASK: Potential Public/Private Partnership Exploration

- Build from the **Financial Plan** component of the AMP which will:
 - Address projected growth, funding needs and sources, and any proposed changes to lease rates or user fees.
 - Identify gaps in revenue and provide a foundation for how to fill those gaps (a financial model or proforma).

2

Determine possible management options for a possible public-private partnership ("3P") between DOT&PF and any other 3rd party interest.

- 3
- Compare management options and prepare a detailed **Strengths**, **Weaknesses**, **Opportunities and Threats** and **feasibility analysis of a privately managed airport**. This analysis will:
 - Consider financial and other information about each management option as it relates to the AMP Vision and Goals.

Birchwood AMP: Our Timeline



Community involvement occurs throughout, including interviews. stakeholder working group meetings, and three public meetings

Immediate Next Steps

 Post Stakeholder Advisory Group #2 and Public Meeting #2 recordings and notes.

- Develop and distribute survey the survey will give everyone a chance to share their levels of support for the different alternatives.
 - ➤ Launch early to mid-November and open for at least 30 days.

Learn More & Contact Us

For the Birchwood Airport Master Plan Update

http://www.dot.state.ak.us/creg/birchwoodamp/

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