

REGIONAL AVIATION SYSTEM PLAN (RASP) UPDATE

Background

H-GAC received a system-planning grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to update the 1991 Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP). H-GAC completed its first RASP in 1973, with updates in 1981, 1986 and 1991. The system plan provides a framework for the integrated planning, operation, and development of the region's aviation assets consistent with regional and state transportation goals. The current RASP includes 23 airports in the 13-county H-GAC region.

Current Status

The H-GAC Board approved the grant agreement with the FAA in August 2008. The consultant team of Quadrant Consultants (Lead), URS, Vesta Rea & Associates, and TransSolutions were selected for this project. The contract with the consultant team began on October 1, 2008 and ends September 30, 2010. The consultant team is currently conducting airport site visits and meeting with local chambers of commerce, as specified in the scope of work as part of the data collection.

A project steering committee was established by the H-GAC Board to monitor the project. The steering committee reviews and advises the consultant team's work and ensures compliance with the project objectives and scope of work. Representation on the steering committee includes managers from 12 general aviation airports, Houston Airport System, Greater Houston Partnership, Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association, National Business Aircraft Association, TXDOT Aviation Division, and FAA Southwest region. The steering committee will meet regularly over the course of the project and will disband when the project is complete.

The RASP update will proceed in two phases, with each phase taking approximately one-year. Phase I began October 1, 2008 and require developing a study design, extensive data collection, evaluation of the current airport system, and identifying issues with each airport and the regional system. Phase II is expected to begin October 1, 2009 includes the detailed planning and analysis tasks to develop the aviation system plan. Outcomes of the update include system development priorities, optimization of airport roles and regional coverage, and recommendations for future aviation growth and security.

Action Requested

For information only