

REGIONAL AVIATION SYSTEM PLAN (RASP) UPDATE

Background

H-GAC received a system planning grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to update the 1992 Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP). The RASP provides a framework for the integrated planning, operation, and development of the region's airports consistent with regional and state transportation goals.

The consultant team of Quadrant Consultants (Lead), URS, Vesta Rea & Associates and TransSolutions completed the draft RASP. The plan includes 26 airports in the 13-county H-GAC region: two commercial service airports, 10 reliever airports and 14 general aviation airports.

The draft RASP includes airport improvements planned by the Houston Airport System (HAS), TxDOT and projects recommended by this study. The airport projects are classified as short-term (2010-2015), mid-term (2016-2020) and long-term (2021-2030). The total cost of the RASP is \$2.27 billion over the next 20 years and includes \$1.9 billion for HAS projects, \$275 million for TASP projects and \$87 million for projects recommended by this study.

The RASP recommends adding Baytown Airport and North Houston Business Airport (Porter) to the Texas Airport System Plan (TASP). Although no airport is currently eligible to be added to the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), Baytown Airport, Houston Executive Airport (Brookshire) and North Houston Business Airport may become eligible in the next few years if the demand exceeds the forecasts.

Current Situation

At its September meeting, the Transportation Policy Council approved the release of the Draft RASP for public comment. The public comment period began on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 and ended on Friday, November 19, 2010. During the public comment period, public meetings were held in Houston, Sugar Land and Conroe to present the Draft RASP.

Action Requested

Staff requests TPC's approval of the RASP.

**2040 Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP)
Focus Groups and Public Meetings**

The public outreach for the 2040 RASP included 24 focus group meetings with area chambers of commerce and economic development councils to discuss the potential for airports to help meet local business and community goals. Three users' forums were held in December 2009 to introduce the RASP. Public meetings were held in September 2009 to present the system inventory and issues to the public. Meetings on the Draft RASP were held in October, 2010.

Focus Group	Date	Location	Airports
Katy Chamber of Commerce	December 16, 2008	Katy	Houston Executive, West Houston
Conroe Chamber of Commerce	December 17, 2008	Conroe	Lone Star Executive
Waller County Chamber of Commerce	January 13, 2009	Hempstead	Houston Executive
Pearland Economic Dev. Council	January 14, 2009	Pearland	Pearland Regional
Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce	January 14, 2009	Sugar Land	Sugar Land Regional
Wharton Chamber of Commerce	January 28, 2009	Wharton	Wharton Regional
Bay City Chamber of Commerce	January 28, 2009	Bay City	Bay City Municipal
Palacios Chamber of Commerce	January 28, 2009	Palacios	Palacios Municipal
Bellville Chamber of Commerce	January 29, 2009	Bellville	Grawunder Field
Columbus Chamber of Commerce	January 29, 2009	Columbus	Robert R. Wells
Angleton Chamber of Commerce	January 30, 2009	Angleton	Texas Gulf Coast Regional
Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce	January 30, 2009	Sugar Land	Houston Southwest
La Porte Chamber of Commerce	February 3, 2009	La Porte	La Porte Municipal
West Houston Association	February 4, 2009	Houston	Sugar Land Regional, Houston Executive, Houston Southwest
Galveston Chamber of Commerce	February 4, 2009	Galveston	Scholes International
Baytown Chamber of Commerce	February 17, 2009	Baytown	Baytown
Winnie Chamber of Commerce	February 17, 2009	Winnie	Winnie-Stowell
East Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce	February 18, 2009	Porter	North Houston Business
Cleveland Chamber of Commerce	February 18, 2009	Cleveland	Cleveland Municipal
Greater Tomball Chamber of Commerce	February 19, 2009	Tomball	David Wayne Hooks Memorial
Huntsville Chamber of Commerce	February 19, 2009	Huntsville	Huntsville Municipal
Eagle Lake Chamber of Commerce	March 4, 2009	Eagle Lake	Eagle Lake
Liberty/Dayton Chamber of Commerce	March 5, 2009	Liberty	Liberty Municipal
Anahuac Chamber of Commerce	March 5, 2009	Anahuac	Chambers County

Users' Forums	Location
December 16, 2008	Katy Chamber of Commerce, Katy
December 16, 2008	Lone Star Executive Airport, Conroe
December 17, 2008	Pearland Chamber of Commerce, Pearland

Public Meetings	Location
September 14, 2009	Montgomery County Public Library, Conroe
September 15, 2009	Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston
September 16, 2009	Ft. Bend Chamber of Commerce, Sugar Land
October 26, 2010	Lone Star Convention Center, Conroe
October 27, 2010	Sugar Land Regional Airport
October 28, 2010	Hobby Airport 1940 Air Terminal Museum, Houston

The public comment period for the Draft RASP began on October 19, 2010 and ended on November 19, 2010. Staff received corrections to airport descriptions and projects from airport managers and sponsors. The following is a brief summary of comments from the Houston Sierra Club. No other comments were received.

- No environmental goals/objectives are provided for in the RASP which can be achieved regionally or at each individual airport. There is no mandate in the RASP for environmentally sensitive development at airports. Airports should do their share to protect the environment.
- H-GAC should include the Sierra Club and other civic groups during the focus group process. The public needs greater opportunities for input.
- Noise was not mentioned as an issue affecting airport expansion.
- The airport closure scenario does not measure the actual closure risk for each airport.
- The new airport scenario is unnecessary and unfair. The potential airport locations used in the analysis may bias and help make this scenario come true.
- The RASP does not analyze how the 154 airport/airstrips in the region work together.
- The RASP and H-GAC forecasts do not take into consideration what kind of future the public wants.
- Environmental issues at several system airports are not accurately documented.
- The Sierra Club supports:
 - Actions by airports that benefit communities
 - Protection of the environment and sustainable development