1 INTRODUCTION

The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have undertaken an airport master plan for Talkeetna Airport. The purpose of the Talkeetna Airport Master Plan is to identify Talkeetna's long-term aviation needs, and to ensure that airport development occurs in compliance with FAA standards and *Alaska Aviation System Plan* (AASP) guidelines.

Aviation is a significant economic factor at Talkeetna Airport. The airport is used as the base for air operations within Denali National Park and Preserve (DNPP), including Mt. McKinley, and for other tourism-related businesses. This master plan is tailored to meet the specific needs of Talkeetna, while adhering to the airport design standards established by the FAA in Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5300-13, *Airport Design*, and consistent with AASP guidelines.

1.1 Study Objectives

The primary objective of the planning process is to produce a long-term development program which yields a safe, environmentally acceptable, efficient, and economical air transportation facility for the community. This plan recommends actions to enhance land use compatibility and identify facilities to serve existing and future air traffic demand.

The master planing process consists of the following five phases:

Phase 1 - Scoping
Phase 2 - Environmental Assessment
Phase 3 - Preliminary Reconnaissance
Phase 4 - Airport Plans
Phase 5 - Final Master Plan

The Preferred Alternative and a more detailed issues-based analysis of the environmental impacts arising from each alternative were addressed in the 2001 *Talkeetna Airport Environmental Assessment* (EA). The EA effort also included agency and public involvement through meetings, correspondence, and reviews, all of which is documented in the Final EA.

1.2 Master Plan Organization

This master plan is divided into seven chapters and includes two appendices. Chapter 1 provides an introduction of the project. Chapter 2 describes existing airport conditions and the purpose and need for the project. Chapter 3 describes the community and project area natural environment. Chapter 4 presents the federal, state, and other criteria used to develop airport improvements. Chapter 5 describes the airport alternatives. Chapter 6 presents an environmental evaluation of the Preferred and No Action Alternatives. Chapter 7 presents the proposed airport development. A detailed Airport Layout Plan (ALP) set is included as part of this master plan (**Appendix A**). This document is the official development plan for the airport, and allows the state to apply for federal funding to support construction of the Preferred Alternative.