

Public Involvement Plan

Valdez Pioneer Field Airport Master Plan Update

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Prepared for:

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region (DOT&PF) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are conducting an Airport Master Plan Update to the Valdez Pioneer Field. An Airport Master Plan is a comprehensive study of an airport and describes the development plans to meet future aviation demand.

The purpose of the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to encourage dialogue and sufficiently inform the public, airport users, and resource agencies during the planning process. Objectives include providing an early opportunity to comment about potential issues and before any major decisions are made. This is being done through a combined effort of public meetings, a website, mailing lists, and outreach at significant airport events.

2 PUBLIC OUTREACH

2.1 Valdez Fly-In

The Master Planning team will conduct public outreach at the 2018 Valdez Fly-In. This is the premier annual event at the airport; bringing together diverse stakeholders for a celebration of Valdez and Alaskan aviation. The team will actively reach out to members of the public; and solicit their ideas for needs at the airport. This will allow resident and visiting pilots, community leaders, operators, airport users, and the general public to provide input into the Master Plan. It will also allow the Master Plan team understand how the airport puts on its premier event.

2.2 Public Meetings

Two public meetings will be held at the (a) Needs Assessment and (b) Alternative stages of the Master Plan. These meetings will be to update the public on the project, field questions, and receive feedback on the project.

The first meeting will be held in May/June 2018. This meeting will focus on collecting needs for the airport. The meeting will first describe what a Master Plan is; including its purpose, primary components, and schedule. Then the meeting will provide a brief history of improvements at the airport, demonstrating how past master plans have led to the current airport. The majority of the

meeting will be an interactive format, focusing on allowing the public to provide input on airport needs. This will be done through informal discussions in front of diagrams of the airport and formal question and answer sessions. Comment forms will also be available for the public to fill out and submit during the meeting or by mail.

The second public meeting will be held in the Fall/Winter of 2018. This meeting will focus on presenting alternatives which address the needs identified in the Master Plan. The meeting will review what a Master Plan is and review the efforts of the current Master Plan. It will recap the identified needs at the airport. The majority of the meeting will be spent on introducing the alternatives which address the needs identified at the airport. The meeting will allow for informal discussion and formal comments to be documented from community members. Community members will be able to evaluate and voice support or concern about alternatives; and suggest improvements to the process.

2.3 Website

A public website will be hosted on the DOT&PF projects webpage to inform the public about the Master Plan. This webpage will serve as a repository for documents, newsletters, and notifications about the Master Plan. Contact information for project leaders will allow the public to directly participate in the plan.

2.4 Mailing List

A Master Plan mailing list will be maintained throughout the project. This live document will include all of those people who have self-identified interest in the project, and any additional stakeholders who have been identified through scoping. The mailing list will be used to update interested stakeholders about project updates, open houses, and other appropriate events.

2.5 Informational and Educational Materials: Newsletters, Emails, and Fact Sheets

These materials will be published on the project website, sent in mailings, and/or be available as handouts at the open house. These are used to provide the public key information about the project, schedule, needs, and alternatives. The local Valdez radio station (KCHU) will also be contacted to run notifications about the open houses. If feasible, a short interview may serve as the notification, providing a richer media experience to increase public awareness of the project.

2.6 Advertisement

Project meetings will be advertised to the project mailing list. Advertisements for open houses will be run in the local newspaper, the Valdez Star.

2.7 Comment Collection

Summaries of open house meeting records, including documentation of comments received during open format discussions will be completed and appended to the Master Plan. Individual comments received through comment forms, emails, and webpage outreach will be collected and saved in the project records. Relevant comments and responses will be summarized in tabular form and included in the Master Plan.

3 INITIAL MASTER PLAN TIMELINE

May 9, 2018: Notice to Proceed

May 12-13, 2018: Valdez Fly-In

May 9, 2018 – June 20, 2018: Public Involvement Plan

May 15, 2018 – August 15, 2018: Conditions and Needs Assessment

June 1, 2018 – September 31, 2018: Land Use Assessment

Fall 2018: Public Open House

July 15, 2018 – October 15, 2018: Alternatives Analysis

Fall/Winter 2018: Public Open House

September 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018: Airport Layout Plan

December 31, 2018: Draft Master Plan

March 15, 2019: Final Master Plan

4 POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS

Valdez Pioneer Field is an important component of the Valdez economy and transportation infrastructure. As a result, there are many interested parties which have been identified (below). Additional parties will be added through the outreach efforts identified above.

- City of Valdez
 - Valdez City Council

- Valdez Planning Commission
- Adjacent Property Owners
- Valdez Pioneer Field Leaseholders, including:
 - Operators (e.g. Ravn Alaska)
 - Aleutian Village Trailer Park
 - Hanger tenants
- State/Federal Agencies
 - FAA Airport Division
 - FAA Flight Service
 - FAA Runway Safety
- Community Organizations
 - Valdez Airmen’s Association
 - Valdez Parks and Trails Organizations
 - Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

5 PROJECT CONTACTS

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