Denali Area Airport Planning Study

Executive Summary

The Denali Area Airport Planning Study (DAAPS) evaluated the airport system in and near the Denali Borough, Alaska. The study, funded by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), considered all airports in the region with a focus on public-use airports in the Denali Borough. Past plans and research studies called for a regional airport in the Denali area, but none adhered to FAA guidelines and requirements for system planning. The DAAPS followed FAA guidance and used data and public feedback to assess whether a regional airport is warranted and identify other potential airport upgrades.

The goal of the DAAPS was to develop a better understanding of the regional aviation system, the need for aviation in the area, and future challenges and opportunities.

STUDY PROCESS

The DAAPS began with background research about the Denali area's airports, communities, economy, and transportation network. This information was combined with input from the public and key stakeholders to identify possible and feasible scenarios for developing the Denali area airport system. The feasible scenarios were evaluated in relation to the system's goals, and the outcomes of the evaluations were used to develop draft recommendations. These recommendations were presented to the public for comment before being finalized.

Organizations Invited to the Stakeholder Advisory Group

Ahtna, Inc

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

Alaska Airmen's Association

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Alaska Railroad Corporation

Alaska Tourism Industry Association

Denali Borough Mayor's Office

Denali Borough Planning Commissioner

Denali Chamber of Commerce

Doyon, Limited

National Park Service

Native Village of Cantwell

Nenana Native Council

Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation

DENALI AREA AIRPORT PLANNING STUDY

Planning for the future, together

Study Process Overview

Analyze
- » Airport data
- » System requirements
- » Previous plans & other data

Identify
- » System issues
- » Community and stakeholder priorities

Develop
- » Potential development scenarios

Evaluate
- » Feasible development scenarios

Refine
- » Draft recommendations

Decide
- » Final recommendations

Opportunity for Public Input

Study Vision

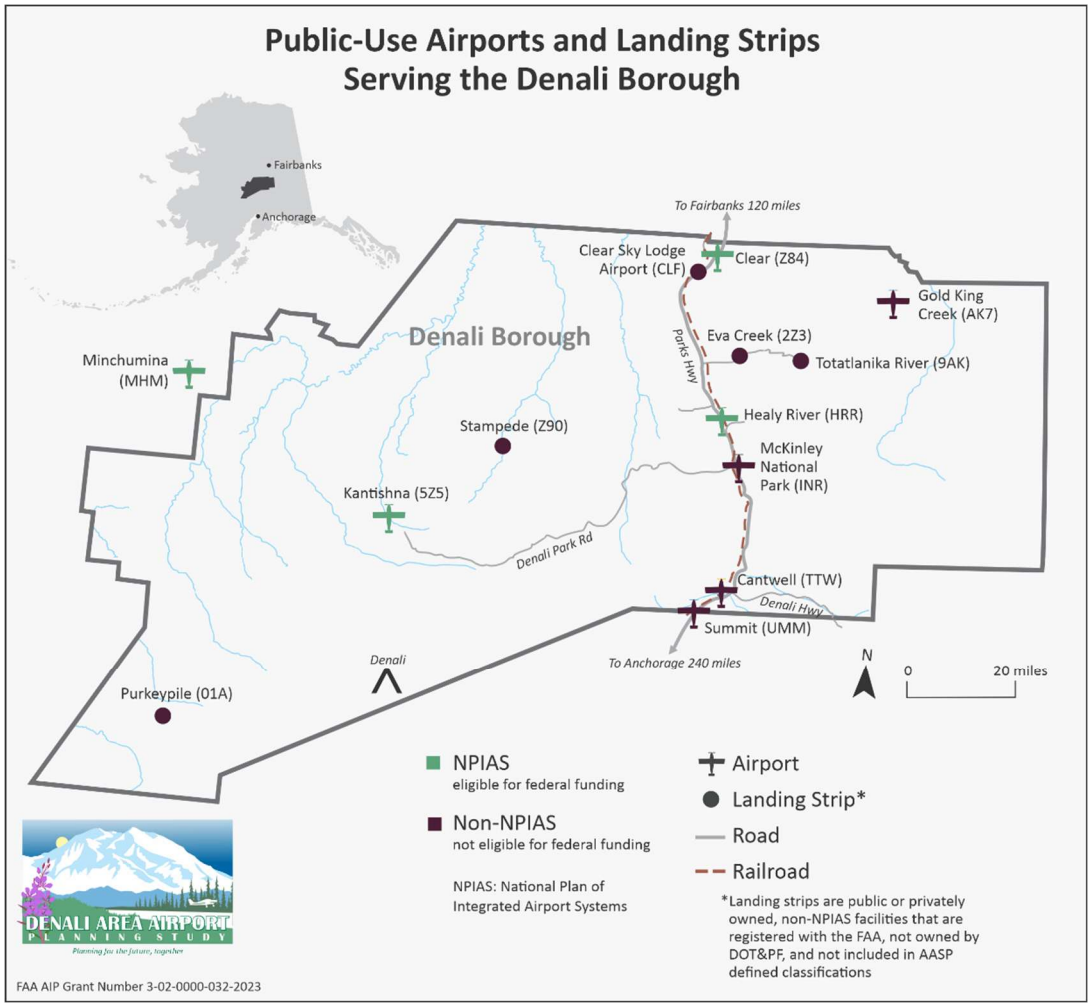
The DAAPS will identify alternatives to create a regional airport system that enhances safety and access for residents and visitors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The DAAPS recommends that in the short-term, DOT&PF pursue a land swap with the Alaska Railroad Corporation to acquire the land that Healy River Airport (HRR) is located on, which will allow DOT&PF to increase investment in Healy River without assuming perpetual FAA grant obligations. The DAAPS also recommends minor upgrades and additional maintenance activities at other airports in the Denali area, adding Summit Airport (UMM) to the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems, and revisiting the airspace restrictions at Clear Airport (Z84) with the U.S. military.

REPORT OVERVIEW

The DAAPS report provides information about the Denali area and describes the study process, including public and agency involvement and the system alternatives that were considered. The report concludes with the final short- and long-term recommendations of the study.



Learn more and view documents at bit.ly/DAAPS-StoryMap.