



Planning for the future, together

Public and Agency Involvement Plan

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| PROJECT OVERVIEW | 1 |
| What is Aviation System Planning? | 1 |
| What is the Denali Area? | 2 |
| INVOLVEMENT OVERVIEW | 3 |
| PAIP Objectives | 3 |
| Schedule | 4 |
| PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT PLAN | 6 |
| Known Priorities and Concerns | 6 |
| PAIP TEAM MEMBERS | 7 |
| IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS | 8 |
| Residents and local landowners | 8 |
| Municipal Entities and Community Organizations | 8 |
| Regional Emergency Response Organizations | 8 |
| State of Alaska Entities | 8 |
| Federal Entities | 9 |
| Alaska Native Corporations and Other Tribal Entities | 9 |
| Utility Companies | 9 |
| Business Interests | 9 |
| Other Aviation Groups and Organizations | 10 |
| PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT STRATEGIES | 10 |
| Meetings and Events | 10 |
| Public Meetings | 10 |
| Small Group Meetings | 10 |
| Stakeholder Advisory Group | 11 |
| Community Events | 11 |



Table of Contents (continued)

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Digital Resources | 11 |
| DOT&PF Webpage | 11 |
| Other Stakeholder Websites | 11 |
| StoryMap | 11 |
| Social Media | 11 |
| Emails and Newsletters | 11 |
| Hard Copy Resources | 12 |
| Flyers | 12 |
| Snail Mail | 12 |
| Drop Box | 12 |
| Surveys | 12 |
| Other Strategies | 12 |
| ACCESSIBILITY | 13 |
| RECORD KEEPING | 13 |

Appendices

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Appendix A | References |
| Appendix B | Kickoff Survey (Hard Copy Version) |



Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|---|
| AASP | Alaska Aviation System Plan |
| ACRP | Airport Cooperative Research Program |
| ADA | Americans with Disabilities Act |
| AIP | Airport Improvement Program |
| DAAPS | Denali Area Airport Planning Study |
| DOT&PF | Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities |
| FAA | Federal Aviation Administration |
| NPIAS | National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems |
| PAIP | Public and Agency Involvement Plan |
| SAG | Stakeholder Advisory Group |
| TDD | Telephone Device for the Deaf |
| TRB | Transportation Research Board |

Airport Location Identifiers

| | |
|-----|-------------------------|
| 01A | Purkeypile |
| 2Z3 | Eva Creek |
| 5Z5 | Kantishna |
| 9AK | Totatlanika River |
| AK7 | Gold King Creek |
| CLF | Clear Sky Lodge Airport |
| HRR | Healy River |
| INR | McKinley National Park |
| TTW | Cantwell |
| UMM | Summit |
| Z84 | Clear |
| Z90 | Stampede |



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Northern Region of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is conducting an aviation system planning study funded by and meeting the requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The study area is defined as airports serving the residents, visitors, and businesses of the Denali Borough. DOT&PF has contracted with RESPEC and their sub-consultants (RESPEC Team) to conduct this study.

What is Aviation System Planning?

An aviation system plan looks at all the factors that impact an aviation system. This can include multiple airports, other modes of transportation, community goals, economic factors, and more. The RESPEC Team will gather feedback from residents and other stakeholders, analyze reports and data, and develop forecasts and technical memos with the goal of understanding the aviation system and making recommendations for future investments that align with federal and state objectives.

The aviation system plan looks at all of the airports in a geographic area to assess the condition, performance, and capability of the existing infrastructure to meet the aviation requirements of the system users. The objective of a system plan is to identify needs, recommend changes to the airports in the system, document development priorities, provide funding strategies, and integrate into state and national aviation system plans. A regional system plan such as the Denali Area Airports Planning Study (DAAPS) also informs regional and statewide transportation plans and should align with the established priorities and objectives. Federal and state funding is dependent on the synergy between these plans.

The DAAPS is funded in part with a grant from the FAA and is required to follow FAA guidance for Airport Improvement Projects (AIP). FAA Advisory Circular 150/5070-7 Change 1, *The Airport System Planning Process* is the primary guiding document for this study. A list of documents relevant to aviation system planning is provided in Appendix A. FAA funding of this study and acceptance of the final report and recommendations does not constitute a commitment to fund recommended development projects. The RESPEC Team will conduct a thorough funding feasibility analysis as part of this process and document opportunities and scenarios, but funding is not guaranteed through this planning process.

The DOT&PF and the FAA recognize the importance of incorporating public and agency input throughout the system planning process. This Public and Agency Involvement Plan (PAIP) was developed to ensure all stakeholders are provided the opportunity to have a meaningful role in the planning process. The RESPEC Team will gather feedback about the PAIP throughout the study and adjust strategies as needed to maximize the opportunities for involvement for as many stakeholders as possible.



We recognize that Denali National Park is a state and national resource attracting visitors from around the world and contributing significantly to the state economy. Further, we understand that the undeveloped land in this area provides tranquility and open space for residents and important habitat for wildlife, which could be impacted by an increase in visitors. The RESPEC Team will work with organizations, tribes, businesses, and agencies to identify and include all stakeholders both within the Denali Borough and beyond.

What is the Denali Area?

For the purposes of this study, the “Denali Area” consists of airports serving the Denali Borough, including airports within the borough as well as Summit (UMM) in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Lake Minchumina (MHM) in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, as shown in Figure 1. The FAA aviation system planning process focuses on public use airports listed in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) to inform recommendations for federal funding. Non-NPIAS airports and privately owned public airstrips are noted on the map, but these facilities are not eligible for FAA Airport Improvement Program funding and the study team will not conduct in-depth assessments or make recommendations for these airports. We will record their roles in the Denali Area aviation system and any public comments received in the study documentation.

We will also gather feedback from the Fairbanks and Talkeetna aviation communities to understand how the aviation systems interact with and impact each other.



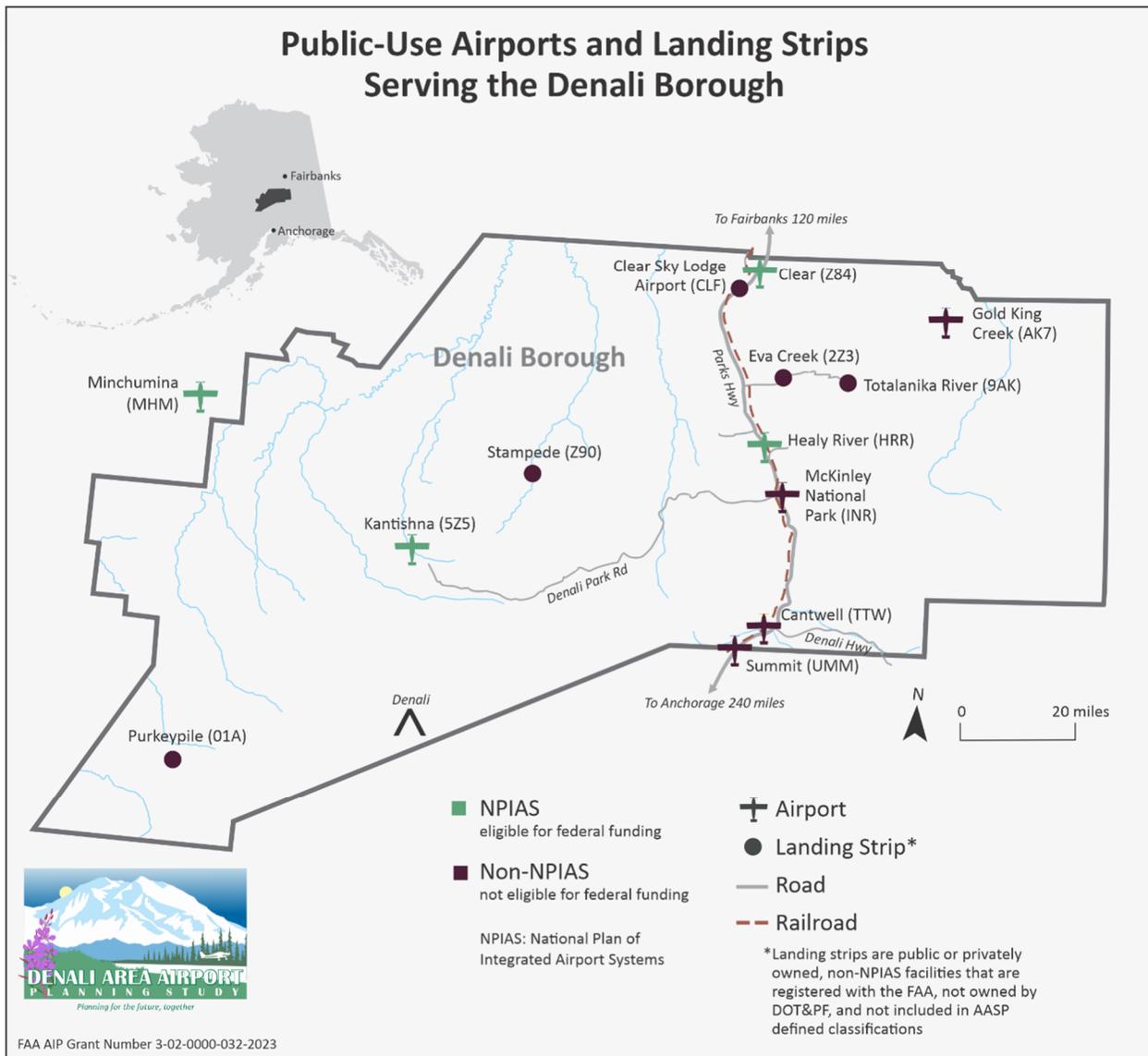


Figure 1. Denali Area Airports and Landing Strips.

INVOLVEMENT OVERVIEW

The RESPEC Team will use a wide range of strategies to gather input from Denali Borough residents, tribal entities, local and regional businesses, organizations, government agencies, and other potentially impacted stakeholders.

PAIP Objectives

A successful public involvement process requires a strong commitment from all members of the project team to reach out to potentially interested parties. To ensure meaningful public involvement throughout the project, we will:

- ▶ Seek public input on key project elements, including vision, goals, and objectives; safety issues, current conditions, constraints, and needs; funding



considerations; draft alternatives and recommendations; and the draft aviation system plan.

- ▶ Facilitate an open and transparent planning process.
- ▶ Encourage a broad range of stakeholders to provide input.
- ▶ Provide numerous avenues for involvement that allow all interested parties to participate even if they do not have access to the internet, are not able to attend in-person meetings, reside outside the Denali area, or are restricted by other factors.
- ▶ Keep an open mind to all points of view.
- ▶ Actively listen to and acknowledge stakeholder concerns.
- ▶ Explain how public input influences project decisions throughout the process.

The public involvement process is fluid, responsive to the stakeholders, and open to modification or the addition of new strategies to increase participation.

Schedule

Figure 2 shows key elements in the planning process and a proposed project timeline.

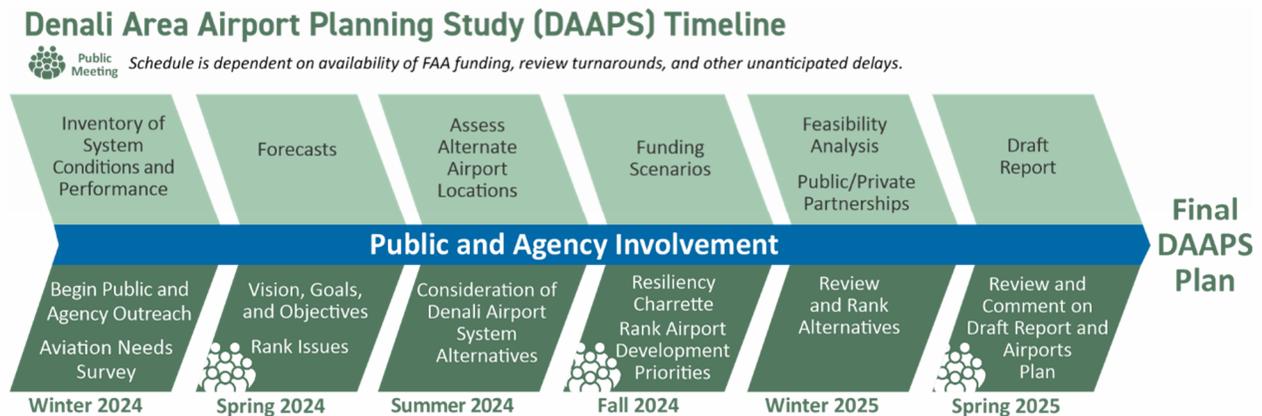


Figure 2. Project Timeline and Key Milestones.



Overview of Strategies

Meetings and Events

- ▶ There will be **three public meetings** with in-person and online options.
- ▶ The RESPEC Team will attend public agency, community, tribal, and civic organization meetings when invited, to provide briefings, answer questions, and listen to targeted input.
- ▶ DOT&PF and the RESPEC Team will assemble a **Stakeholder Advisory Group** that will provide regular review and feedback on the progress of the project.
- ▶ When appropriate, the Team will attend public regional and **community events** to share information and gather input.

Digital Resources

- ▶ DOT&PF will host a **webpage** with key project information.
- ▶ The RESPEC Team will maintain an interactive Esri **StoryMap** to share information, project updates, and collect comments.
- ▶ **Emails** and **digital newsletters** will be shared to provide project updates.
- ▶ Information will be shared via DOT&PF **social media** accounts.
- ▶ Links and notices will be posted to the **Denali Borough Website** and other interested organizations' websites.

Hard Copy Resources

- ▶ **Flyers** will be posted in key community locations and **mailers** will be sent out to announce public meetings and project updates.
- ▶ Denali Borough will host a **drop box** for comments and surveys.
- ▶ The RESPEC Team will coordinate with Denali Borough staff and community members to identify key locations to post flyers, such as the Tri-Valley Community Library and public bulletin boards.

Surveys

- ▶ A **kickoff survey** will be distributed to multiple interest groups, including residents, tourism-related businesses, non-tourism-related businesses, and pilot, air carrier, and aviation organizations.
- ▶ Additional surveys or **comment cards** will be distributed to gather feedback as the project progresses.
- ▶ Survey opportunities will be announced in coordination with multiple partners both online and in physical locations.

Other Strategies

- ▶ The RESPEC Team will collaborate with residents and stakeholders to identify additional strategies for sharing information and collecting feedback. The PAIP is a fluid process; the plan and outreach strategies will adapt to stakeholder needs.



PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

The Public and Agency Involvement Plan (PAIP) guides the strategy used by the RESPEC Team to communicate information to and gather input from residents, land and business owners, tribes, agencies, and other interested parties from across the state and nation. Input from stakeholders is vital to developing project recommendations.

We will work with the community members to identify additional strategies and opportunities to ensure we are reaching as many people as possible, including people with limited internet access or who do not regularly attend public meetings.

PAIP Purpose



Public involvement is vital to the success of this study.

Known Priorities and Concerns

Prior to the start of this study, DOT&PF was made aware of the following key topics that have been discussed by stakeholder groups:

- ▶ Denali Borough plans have identified the need for a regional airport to provide year-round medical flights, charter business, and scheduled flights for passengers and freight.
- ▶ Doyon, Limited developed a conceptual plan focusing on the economic impacts of a regional airport.
- ▶ Area residents are concerned about potential noise pollution, environmental impacts, overcrowding, and the availability of affordable land for year-round residents.
- ▶ Stakeholders have indicated concern about the impact of direct service to Denali from the Lower 48 on statewide tourism.
- ▶ Changes to the aviation system and an increased number of visitors could impact wildlife habitat, movements, and behavior.
- ▶ Pilots and residents have raised questions about how funding to smaller airports will be impacted by the designation of a regional airport.
- ▶ Aviation groups have noted that the expansion of the Special Use Airspace surrounding Clear Space Force Station and possible future expansion may impact air travel in the region.

Through the outreach process, we will build on this knowledge and learn more about the priorities and concerns of all stakeholders. The DAAPS Plan will document and consider all input from stakeholders to develop the guiding objectives, values and goals of the plan.



PAIP TEAM MEMBERS

The Stakeholder Engagement team is a true collaboration between public involvement (PI) experts. Joy Huntington, with the support of her team at Uqaqti, is the lead PI advisor and facilitator. Jamie Hansen and her team at Information Insights lead the PI Team with support from RESPEC, DOWL, and Marshall Arts Design, as shown in Figure 3 below.

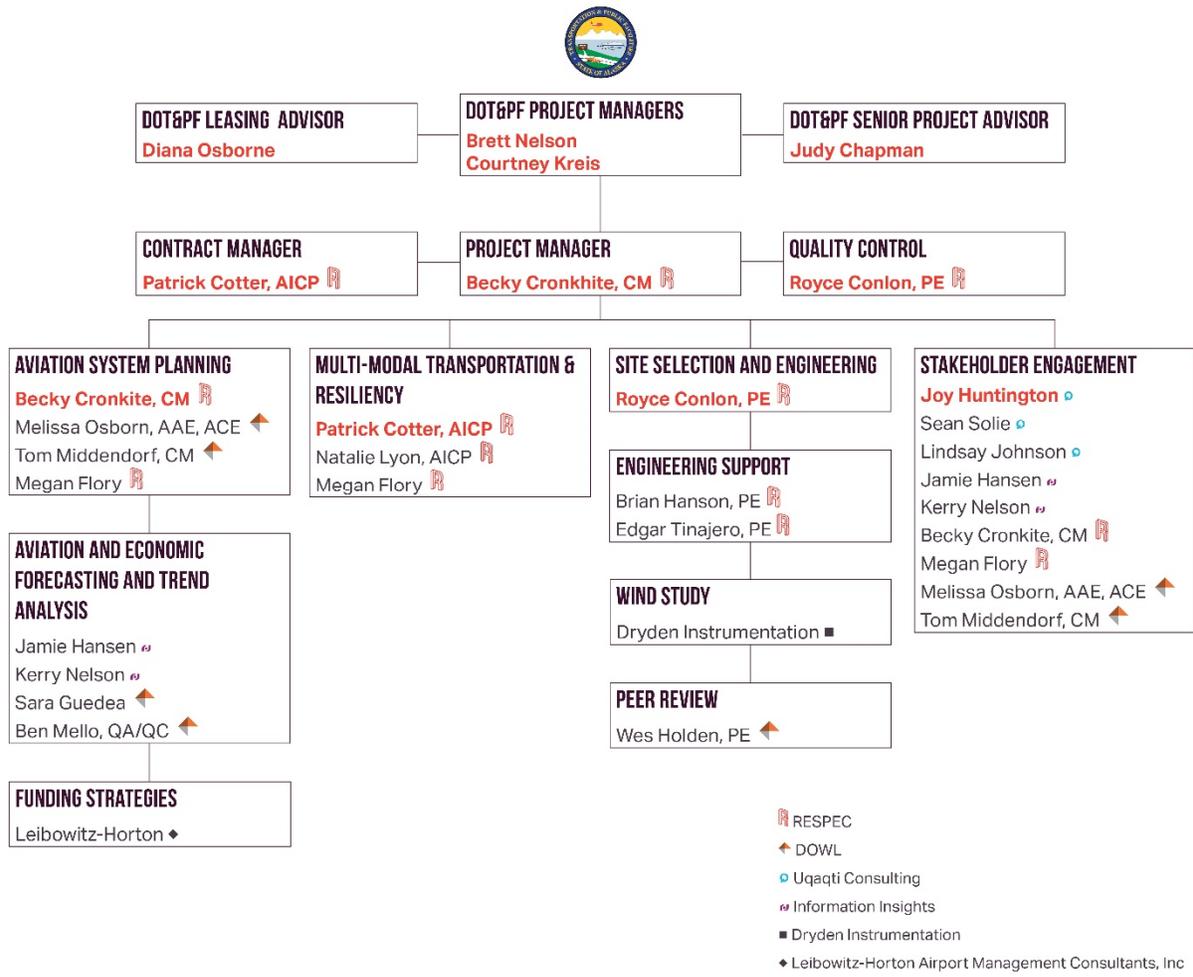


Figure 3. DAAPS Organizational Chart



IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

DOT&PF and the RESPEC Team recognize the importance of working with and reaching as many individuals and groups as possible to gather input for this project. We have developed an initial list of stakeholders (see below) that we will contact to provide project updates and request feedback. We will offer multiple avenues for additional participation, update the list below as we identify new stakeholders, and maintain a record of contact information for all stakeholders.

Residents and local landowners

Municipal Entities and Community Organizations

- ▶ Denali Borough
- ▶ City of Anderson
- ▶ City of Nenana
- ▶ Cantwell
- ▶ Clear
- ▶ Healy
- ▶ Denali Park
- ▶ Ferry
- ▶ McKinley Village
- ▶ Denali Borough School District
- ▶ Talkeetna Community Council

Regional Emergency Response Organizations

- ▶ Cantwell Volunteer Fire Department
- ▶ City of Anderson Fire Department
- ▶ McKinley Volunteer Fire Department
- ▶ Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department
- ▶ Interior Region Emergency Medical Services Council
- ▶ Bureau of Land Management – Alaska Fire Service
- ▶ Alaska Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
- ▶ Guardian Flight
- ▶ LifeMed Alaska
- ▶ Denali Rescue Volunteers

State of Alaska Entities

- ▶ Alaska DOT&PF
- ▶ Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- ▶ Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- ▶ Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- ▶ Alaska Department of Public Safety – Division of Alaska State Troopers
- ▶ Alaska State Senators and Representatives



Federal Entities

- ▶ National Park Service
- ▶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- ▶ U.S. Department of Defense – Clear Space Force Station
- ▶ U.S. Department of the Interior
- ▶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- ▶ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

Alaska Native Corporations and Other Tribal Entities

- ▶ Doyon, Limited
- ▶ Ahtna, Inc
- ▶ Toghotthele Corporation
- ▶ Native Village of Cantwell
- ▶ Nenana Native Traditional Council
- ▶ Alaska Native Village Corporation Association
- ▶ Tanana Chiefs Conference

Utility Companies

- ▶ Golden Valley Electric Association
- ▶ Matanuska Telephone Company
- ▶ Nenana Heating Services
- ▶ Vitus Energy
- ▶ AmeriGas
- ▶ HughesNet
- ▶ StarBand

Business Interests

- ▶ Local business owners
- ▶ Denali Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce – Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
- ▶ Alaska Tourism Industry Association
- ▶ Discover Denali
- ▶ Explore Fairbanks
- ▶ Alaska Miners Association
- ▶ Alaska Gasline Development Corporation
- ▶ Alaska Railroad Corporation
- ▶ Ruby Marine
- ▶ Usibelli Coal Mine
- ▶ Denali Park Adventures
- ▶ Everts Air
- ▶ Wrights Air Service
- ▶ Northern Air Cargo
- ▶ K2 Aviation
- ▶ Talkeetna Air Taxi
- ▶ Alaska Airlines
- ▶ Warbelow's Air Ventures
- ▶ Temsco Helicopters
- ▶ Holland America Princess Tours
- ▶ Premiere Alaska Tours
- ▶ Grey Line Tours Alaska
- ▶ Alaska Coach Tours



Other Aviation Groups and Organizations

- ▶ Fairbanks General Aviation Association
- ▶ Civil Air Patrol
- ▶ Alaska Airmen's Association
- ▶ Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
- ▶ Alaska Air Carriers Association
- ▶ Alaska Aviation Coordination Council
- ▶ Fairbanks International Airport
- ▶ DOT&PF Aviation Advisory Board
- ▶ Fairbanks International Airport Operators Council

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT STRATEGIES

This section provides additional details for each of the proposed involvement and outreach strategies. These strategies are flexible and will be updated based on feedback from the community.

Meetings and Events

Public Meetings

The RESPEC Team will host three (3) public meetings with in-person and virtual components. Meetings will be announced digitally (social media, emails, website updates), via postal mail, and with flyers posted in key community locations. All meetings will support collaboration between the RESPEC Team and stakeholders.

The first meeting, to be held in Healy, will provide information to the public about the purpose of the project, support data collection, identify additional stakeholders, and solicit feedback. The second meeting will include a presentation of research conducted and a resiliency charette and provide a venue to discuss opportunities, issues, and alternatives. The final meeting will center on the draft plan, recommendations, and alternatives and will provide an opportunity for discussion and feedback from the public.

Small Group Meetings

The RESPEC Team will attend up to twelve (12) public small group meetings upon request by meeting organizers. Team attendance at such meetings will require pre-approval by DOT&PF. The Team will provide an update on the status of the project and answer attendee questions; any questions that do not have answers previously vetted by DOT&PF will be deferred to the contracting agency. Meeting notes and attendees will be recorded in the project outreach files.

Organizations that may request project briefings include, but are not limited to, community councils, tribal councils, industry groups, trade organizations, and local governments. Regular updates to the Denali Planning Commission, Borough Assembly,



and Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee are included in this task.

Stakeholder Advisory Group

DOT&PF and the RESPEC Team will assemble a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) that will consist of representatives from agencies, communities, tribes, industry, and local governments. The SAG will provide targeted feedback as the project develops based on the expertise of the members.

The SAG will have 10-15 members that will meet up to eight (8) times throughout the project. The first and final meetings will be in-person with a virtual component, while the other six (6) will be fully virtual.

Community Events

Throughout the project, the RESPEC Team will coordinate with communities and the Denali Borough to identify additional opportunities to connect with the public.

Digital Resources

DOT&PF Webpage

DOT&PF will host a webpage with basic information about the project on the official State of Alaska website. The webpage will also direct visitors to the Esri StoryMap, which will have more detailed information (see below).

Emails and Newsletters

The RESPEC Team will maintain a record of email addresses from interested parties. We will send email updates, meeting announcements, and digital newsletters throughout the course of the project.

Other Stakeholder Websites

The RESPEC Team will coordinate with interested stakeholders to post links to project information on their websites. The Denali Borough has agreed to post links and updates to the official Denali Borough website throughout the project and other stakeholders may be identified throughout the project to do the same.

Social Media

The RESPEC Team will provide content to DOT&PF, as requested, to share on official DOT&PF social media accounts.

StoryMap

The RESPEC Team will create and maintain an Esri StoryMap, which is an interactive website that will allow users to learn about the project and share comments. Study reports, technical papers, and regular project updates will be available on the StoryMap.



Hard Copy Resources

Drop Box

The Denali Borough will host a drop box location for people to drop off hard copies of comments and surveys.

Flyers

The RESPEC Team will coordinate with Denali Borough and community members to post physical flyers in key community locations, such as the Post Office, Three Bears, and the Tri-Valley Community Library.

Postal Mail

The RESPEC Team will maintain a record of mailing addresses from interested parties. Informational postcards will be mailed to announce meetings and public comment opportunities.

Surveys

The RESPEC Team will distribute surveys or comment cards at strategic points throughout the project to gather feedback. The surveys will be tailored to different stakeholder interest groups to ensure feedback is specific to key issues and topics.

The hard copy version of the kickoff survey can be found in Appendix B.

Other Strategies

The RESPEC Team may use other strategies to share information and collect feedback. These strategies could include:

- ▶ The Fairbanks community has expressed an interest in this project. Several Fairbanks area groups are listed in this document and others may be identified through outreach. The RESPEC Team understands that Denali National Park is a significant tourism destination and stakeholders are not limited to those residing in the Borough. The public involvement process is open to all interested parties and organizations.
- ▶ Mailing or dropping off written materials, such as memos or report drafts, to key stakeholders.
- ▶ Preparing draft press or media releases.
- ▶ Attending community events or meetings to share project information.
- ▶ Staffing a booth at aviation events such as fly-ins.
- ▶ Staffing booths at relevant conferences and conventions that request a presence from the RESPEC Team.
- ▶ In person visits to airports in the area with outreach to available pilots and airport users.



ACCESSIBILITY

All reasonable accommodations will be provided in-person and online to ensure individuals with disabilities or limited English proficiency are able to access materials and provide comments.

DOT&PF and the RESPEC Team will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the DOT&PF Title VI Nondiscrimination Program Plan. DOT&PF is required by federal agreement to include a disclosure regarding compliance with these acts as part of agency outreach and public involvement. Title VI and ADA notices will be published with all public announcements.

RECORD KEEPING

Stakeholder comment cards, emails, and other communications shall be retained in the project records. When a response is required, it will first be approved by the DOT&PF project manager and a copy retained in the project records. Responses will be made in a timely manner and with the approval of DOT&PF.

Stakeholder contact information shall not be shared with other entities and will be used only for disseminating project information. Names and contact information provided through surveys, comments, or other means will not be shown in survey results, public documents, or reports.



Appendix A: References

Alaska DOT&PF Aviation Preconstruction Manual

Alaska DOT&PF Environmental Procedures Manual

Alaska DOT&PF Title VI Nondiscrimination Program Plan

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

Aviation Cooperative Research Board Research Report 244, *Advancing the Practice of State Aviation System Planning*

FAA Advisory Circular 150/5050-4A, *Community Involvement in Airport Planning*

FAA Advisory Circular 150/5070-6B, *Airport Master Plans*

FAA Advisory Circular 150/5070-7, *The Airport System Planning Process*

FAA Advisory Circular 150/5300-13B, *Airport Design*

FAA Advisory Circular 150/5300-14, *Architectural, Engineering, and Planning Consultant Services for Airport Grant Projects*

FAA Airport Improvement Program Handbook

FAA General Aviation Airports: A National Asset (ASSET 1)

FAA ASSET 2: In-Depth Review of 497 Unclassified Airports

FAA National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) 2023-2027: Narrative

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964



Appendix B: Kickoff Survey (Hard Copy Version)

