

What is an airport master plan?

As defined by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), an airport master plan is a comprehensive study of an airport that describes the short-, medium-, and long-term development plans needed to meet future aviation demand.

An airport master plan guides the physical growth of the airport to coordinate with the future demand for services, available funding and environmental considerations. The airport master plan uses text and drawings to explain plans for future development both on and around the airport. It also includes a proposed schedule for development and a plan for funding. The FAA requires the Airport Board maintain an up-to-date plan to remain eligible for federal grant funds.

What is the goal or purpose of the airport master plan?

The goal of a master plan is to provide the framework needed to guide future airport development that will cost-effectively satisfy aviation demand, while considering potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts. A master plan provides the tools to react to uncertainties by examining key trends in the aviation industry, such as changing airline business models, improvements in technology, and local/regional economics that could affect airport activity.

What are the components of an airport master plan?

The components of an airport master plan include:

- an inventory of existing facilities and collection of current activity and operational data;
- development of aviation activity forecasts;
- determination of future facility requirements;
- creation of alternative development concepts;
- development of a financial implementation plan;
- an environmental review/analysis to identify implementation actions; and,
- the updating of Airport Layout Plan (ALP) documents in accordance with federal airport operating and design standards.

Why is the Yakima Air Terminal – McAllister Field Airport Master Plan being updated?

The Yakima Air Terminal – McAllister Field (YKM) Airport Master Plan, last prepared in 2003, is being updated to outline a long-range, orderly direction for airport development which will yield a safe, efficient, economical, and environmentally acceptable air transportation facility. The current master plan is now 8 years old and the business and urban development environment around the airport is constantly changing requires the airport board to reexamine the airport's

role in the community. The master plan will provide a phased outline for development and give the Board advance notice of pending needs to aid in future scheduling and budgeting.

What are the key issues for this master plan?

The key issues to be addressed by the master plan include: (1) the potential runway extension; (2) revisions to the Airport Safety Overlay Zone; (3) a potential development of a new turf runway; and, (4) planning for a new or improved passenger terminal area.

What is the approval process for the airport master plan?

Airport master plans are approved by the legal sponsor, or “owner”, of the airport through the City and County’s Joint Operations Agreement of 1982. FAA only accepts the master plan once approved by the sponsor. The FAA’s approval of the plan represents acceptance of the general location of the future facilities depicted with respect to safety, efficiency, and utility of the airport. Additional approvals and steps are usually necessary before a project can move into the design and construction phase.

Once the formal approval of the master plan is complete, the local jurisdictions (Yakima County, the City of Yakima and the City of Union Gap) are encouraged to adopt the plan into their Comprehensive Planning process.

Who is involved in the airport master planning process?

YKM has organized a variety of stakeholders including commercial operators, airport users, passengers, tenants, local businesses, city and county representatives, and residents from the surrounding communities into two advisory committees to assist in plan development. It is important to obtain the viewpoints, goals, and input of each of the stakeholder groups in to assure the master plan is responsive to the needs of the users and citizens of the area.

How can I follow or participate in the study process?

The latest information on the master plan update will be posted to this website. On this site, you can provide comments and suggestions by clicking the “Feedback” link, which shows a variety of ways to contact us. Any public meetings will be widely announced well in advance of the meeting date. Other important dates, meetings, conclusions, etc. will be posted on this website for general review (click the “Project Status” link).