

COOLIDGE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Coolidge, Arizona

INTRODUCTION

AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

The Coolidge Municipal Airport Master Plan Update has been undertaken to evaluate the airport's capabilities and role, to forecast future aviation demand, and to plan for the timely development of new or expanded facilities that may be required to meet that demand. The ultimate goal of the Master Plan is to provide systematic guidelines for the future development, operation, and maintenance of the airport.

The Master Plan is intended to be a proactive document which identifies and then plans for future facility needs well in advance of the actual need. This is done to ensure that the City of Coolidge can coordinate project approvals, design, financing, and construction in a timely manner, prior to experiencing the negative effects of inadequate facilities.

An important result of the Master Plan is reserving sufficient areas for future facility needs. This protects development areas and allows the airport to readily meet future demands when required. The intended result is a detailed land use concept which outlines specific uses for all areas of airport property.

The preparation of this Master Plan is evidence that the City of Coolidge recognizes the importance of air transportation to the area and the associated challenges inherent in providing for its unique operating improvement needs. The cost of maintaining an airport is an investment which yields impressive benefits for the community. With a sound and realistic Master Plan, Coolidge Municipal Airport can maintain its role as an important link to the national air



transportation system for the community.

Coolidge Municipal Airport is located approximately five miles southeast of the City of Coolidge and serves as a vital economic asset for the City and surrounding areas. As such, it should be carefully and thoughtfully planned and subsequently developed in a manner which matches the development goals of the community. The City of Coolidge initiated this Master Plan as an update to the previous Master Plan for Coolidge Municipal Airport completed in 1997. Since that time, the City of Coolidge has invested considerable funds into the continued growth and development of the airport.

MASTER PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Coolidge Municipal Airport Master Plan is to develop a financially feasible, long term development program which will satisfy aviation demand and be compatible with area development, other transportation modes, and the environment. Accomplishing this objective requires an evaluation of the existing airport so as to make a determination of what actions should be taken to maintain adequate, safe, and reliable airport facilities. The completed Master Plan will provide a detailed development plan which will provide responsible officials with a schedule of future capital needs to aid in planning, scheduling, and budgeting.

An Airport Master Plan must be developed according to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements which contain specific components. These components, to be detailed in the following section, are guidelines which allow for a systematic and technical approach to reach the final development plan.

The Master Plan is to provide a vision for the airport covering the next 20 years and, in some cases, beyond. With this vision, the City of Coolidge can have advance notice of potential future airport funding needs so that appropriate steps can be taken to ensure that adequate funds are budgeted and planned.

Specific goals and objectives of the Coolidge Municipal Airport Master Plan Update are:

- **Preserve Public and Private Investments**

The City of Coolidge, the FAA, and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)-Aeronautics Group have made considerable investments in the airport's infrastructure. Private individuals and businesses have made investments in buildings and other facilities. The Master Plan provides for continued maintenance as well as necessary improvements to the airport's infrastructure to ensure maximum utility of public and private facilities at Coolidge Municipal Airport.

- **Be Reflective of Community Goals and Objectives**

Coolidge Municipal Airport is a public facility serving the needs of the local residents and businesses. The Master Plan needs to be reflective of the goals and visions of the City, especially those related to quality of life, business and development, and land use. As a result, the Master Plan has incorporated existing planning efforts by the City of Coolidge into the ultimate design and use of the airport.

- **Maintain Safety**

Safety is an essential consideration in the planning and development at the airport. The Master Plan focuses on maintaining the highest levels of safety for airport users, visitors, employees, and the surrounding community in general.

- **Preserve the Environment**

Protection and preservation of the local environment are essential concerns in the Master Plan. Any improvements called for are mindful of environmental sensitivities.

- **Attract Public Participation**

To ensure that the Master Plan reflects the concerns of the public, the local community, airport tenants, airport users, and businesses throughout the region, the study process has included an active public outreach program. The intent of the program was to solicit comments and suggestions which then would be included in the

final Master Plan report, as appropriate.

- **Strengthen the Economy**

In continuing support of the area's economy, the Master Plan is aimed at retaining and increasing jobs and revenue for the area and its businesses.

MASTER PLAN TASKS

The Master Plan has accomplished these objectives by carrying out the following:

- Determine projected needs of airport users through the year 2030.
- Analyze socioeconomic factors likely to affect air transportation demand in the City of Coolidge and surrounding area.
- Evaluate existing and future aviation demand in order to provide a vision for future airport development that will optimize undeveloped airport property and promote aircraft safety.
- Consider improved instrument approach procedures to the runway system.
- Examine the need for additional runway length to accommodate the airport's critical design aircraft.
- Consider improved navigational and weather aids to aid pilots utilizing the airport.

- Identify existing and future general aviation facility needs.
- Develop land use strategies for the use of airport property that consider both aviation and non-aviation uses.
- Evaluate land acquisition requirements (if any) for future airport facility development and/or safety requirements.
- Develop a realistic, common-sense plan for the use and/or expansion of the airport.
- Present environmental considerations associated with any recommended development alternatives.
- Establish a schedule of development priorities and a program for improvements.
- Analyze the airport's financial requirements for capital improvement needs and grant options.
- Coordinate this Master Plan with local, regional, state, and federal agencies.
- Conduct active and productive public involvement throughout the planning process.

BASELINE ASSUMPTIONS

A study such as this typically requires some baseline assumptions to be used throughout the planning process. The baseline assumptions for the Coolidge

Municipal Airport Master Plan are as follows:

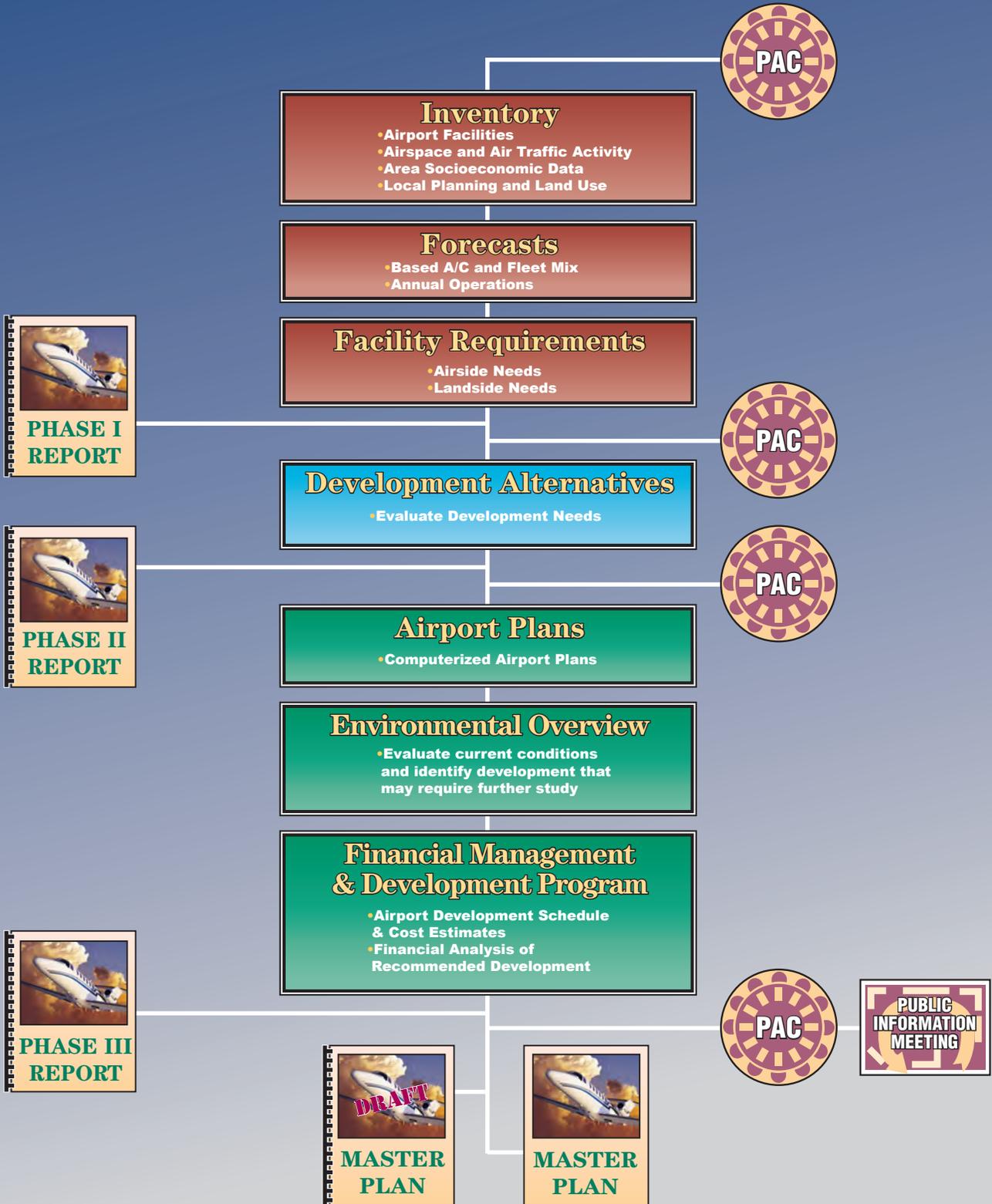
- Coolidge Municipal Airport will continue to operate as a general aviation airport serving the City of Coolidge and surrounding area.
- Coolidge Municipal Airport intends to seek general aviation and commercial business aviation based tenants and transient operations.
- The aviation industry on the national level will grow as forecast by the FAA in its annual Aerospace Forecasts.
- The socioeconomic characteristics of the region will remain as forecast (see Chapter Two).
- Both a federal and a state program will be in place through the planning period to assist in funding future capital development needs.

MASTER PLAN ELEMENTS AND PROCESS

The Coolidge Municipal Airport Master Plan Update is prepared in a systematic fashion following FAA guidelines and industry-accepted principles and practices. The Master Plan Update has six general elements that are intended to assist in the discovery of future facility needs and provide the supporting rationale for their implementation. **Exhibit IA** provides a graphical depiction of the process and elements involved in the Coolidge

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MASTER PLAN PROJECT WORK FLOW



Municipal Airport Master Plan Update.

Element One encompasses the inventory efforts. The inventory efforts were focused on collecting and assembling relevant data pertaining to the airport and the area it serves. Information was collected on existing airport facilities and operations. Local economic and demographic data was collected to define the local growth trends. Planning studies which may have relevance to the Master Plan were also collected. Information collected during the inventory efforts is summarized in Chapter One – Inventory.

Element Two examines the potential demand for aviation activity at the airport. This analysis utilized local socioeconomic information, as well as national air transportation trends, to quantify the levels of aviation activity which can reasonably be expected to occur at Coolidge Municipal Airport through the year 2030. This includes based aircraft and annual aircraft operations. The results of this effort were used to determine the types and sizes of facilities which will be required to meet the projected aviation demands for the airport through the planning period. The results of this analysis are presented in Chapter Two – Forecasts.

Element Three comprises the facility requirements analysis. The intent of this analysis was to compare the existing facility capacities to forecast aviation demand and determine where deficiencies in capacities (as well as excess capacities) may exist. Where deficiencies are identified, the size and

type of new facilities to accommodate the demand were identified. The airfield analysis focused on improvements needed to serve the type of aircraft expected to operate at the airport in the future, as well as navigational aids to increase the safety and efficiency of operations. This element also examines aircraft storage hangars and apron needs. The findings of this analysis are presented in Chapter Three – Facility Requirements.

Element Four considers a variety of solutions to accommodate the projected facility needs. This element proposes various facility and site plan configurations to efficiently and effectively use the available airport property. A thorough analysis was completed to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each proposed development alternative, with the intention of determining a single direction for ultimate development. These results are presented in Chapter Four – Airport Alternatives.

Element Five provides both a graphic and narrative description of the recommended plan for the use, development, and operation of the airport based upon the alternatives analysis. These topics are included in Chapter Five – Recommended Master Plan Concept

Element Six focuses on the capital needs program. This program defines the schedules, costs, and funding sources for the recommended development projects. The capital improvement program (CIP) is also included in this element. The results of this analysis are presented in Chapter Six – Capital Improvement Program.

In addition to these six elements, a complete glossary further defining various terms used throughout the Master Plan is included as Appendix A. A review of the potential environmental impacts associated with proposed airport improvements as well as federal environmental requirements applicable to Coolidge Municipal Airport is presented in Appendix B. Finally, the official Airport Layout Plan (ALP) drawings used by the FAA and ADOT-Aeronautics Group in determining grant eligibility and funding is included as Appendix C in the Master Plan.

COORDINATION

Coolidge Municipal Airport is of interest to many within the local community and surrounding area. This includes local citizens, community organizations, airport users, airport tenants, area-wide planning agencies, and aviation organizations. As an important component of the regional, state, and national aviation systems, the Master Plan is of importance to both state and federal agencies responsible for overseeing air transportation.

To assist in the development of the Coolidge Municipal Airport Master Plan Update, a cross-section of interested persons were identified to act in an advisory role. As members of this Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), the committee members reviewed phase reports and provided comments throughout the study to help ensure that a realistic, viable plan was developed.

To assist in the review process, a series of draft phase reports were prepared at various milestones in the planning process, as shown on **Exhibit IA**. The draft phase reports allowed for input and review during each step of the Master Plan process to ensure that all Master Plan issues were fully addressed, as the recommended program developed.

One public information workshop was also included as part of the plan coordination. The public information workshop allowed the public to provide input and learn about general information concerning the Master Plan. The report was also available online at www.coolidgemp.airportstudy.com.

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Chapter One

INVENTORY