

Southwest Florida International Airport  
*Final • Master Plan Update*

March 2004



Southwest Florida International Airport

# Master Plan Update

submitted to



Southwest Florida International Airport

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This Airport Master Plan Update for Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) was prepared in accordance with the requirements of both the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). All aspects and sections of this document are based on the criteria and standards set forth in the FAA Advisory Circulars (AC) 150/5070-6A, "Airport Master Plans", AC 150/5300-13, Change 6, "Airport Design", as well as the FDOT's "Guidebook for Airport Master Planning".

The elements of this Master Plan Update provide a comprehensive analysis of current airport facilities and a determination of trends and activities affecting the Airport and its environment. The Master Plan Update includes updated aviation forecasts, facility requirements, demand/capacity analyses, airside and landside alternative analyses, a financial plan, an environmental overview, and an Airport Layout Plan set that meets the FAA and FDOT criteria to guide future development on and around the Airport. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared in conjunction with this Master Plan. All of the recommendations made in this document are focused on maintaining a modern, safe, efficient, and reliable facility to meet the air transportation needs of the flying public, national and international commerce, the State of Florida, and the local community.

### 1.1 Goals and Objectives

The primary Master Plan Update goals and objectives include the following:

- Create a twenty-year development program that will maintain a safe, efficient, economical, and environmentally compatible airport facility for the five-county area.
- Provide the short-term and long-term guidance to successfully satisfy the aviation demand in a financially feasible and responsible manner, while addressing the aviation, environmental, and socioeconomic issues of the community.

In achieving the above-mentioned goals, the following objectives will be attained:

- Identify airside, landside, and airspace improvements and recommend options to optimize the economic aspects of the Airport while enhancing the safety and operational capacity.
- Establish an implementation schedule for financially feasible short, intermediate, and long-term airport improvements.
- Identify short-term airport requirements and recommend actions to optimize short-term funding opportunities.
- Ensure short-term recommendation and actions do not preclude long-term planning options.
- Incorporate the interests of the public, airport users and government agencies.
- Be sensitive to the overall environmental characteristics and needs of the area surrounding the Airport.
- Reflect current comprehensive land use (on and off property) and make recommendations for compatible land uses, zoning and noise impacts.



- Enhance operational efficiency and safety of the Airport through the review of airport maintenance programs, operating procedures, and minimum operating standards.

## 1.2 Key Issues

The Southwest Florida International Airport Master Plan Update is a guide for the control, maintenance, preservation, and growth of commercial and general aviation at Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) to support public access to national and international air transportation systems in Fort Myers, Lee County and Southwest Florida. Key issues and study areas in the development of this Master Plan Update include the following:

- Potential Reuse of the Existing Terminal Building, FIS facility, Air Freight, Terminal Parking and Catering facilities
- Land Use Strategy for the North Airfield
- Land Use Strategy for the South and East Quadrants of the Airport
- Surface Roadway and Interstate Access to the New Midfield Terminal
- Best Strategy for Rehabilitation of the Existing Runway
- Future Cargo Facility Options
- Reconfirm New Parallel Runway Configuration and Taxiway Alternatives
- Reconfirm ultimate Midfield Terminal Configuration

## 1.3 Previous Studies

The last Master Plan Update for Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) was completed by Coffman Associates, Inc. in February 1992. As with the current study, the 1992 Master Plan Update provided a comprehensive analysis of the airport needs and alternatives with the purpose of providing a 20-year outlook for the future development of the airport. The 1992 Master Plan Update was an update to the previous Master Plan conducted in 1986. In addition, the following planning studies have been conducted for the Airport:

- Terminal Facilities Study, March 30, 1989, Thompson Consultants International.
- Airport Master Plan Update, February 1992, Coffman Associates, Inc.
- Environmental Assessment, May 1992, CH2Mhill: Runway 6-24 extension.
- Parallel Runway Length and Separation Refinement Study: Supplement to the 1992 Master Plan Update, August 1993, Coffman Associates, Inc.
- Environmental Assessment, February 1994, Coffman Associates.
- Vision 2010 Implementation Plan, April 1998, Greiner, Inc.
- Midfield Terminal Development Study, January 2001, DMJM Aviation.

Southwest Florida International Airport is included in Lee County's Comprehensive Plan (The Lee Plan). This plan, which was updated late in 1998, considers the comprehensive development of Lee County through the Year 2020. The Lee Plan addresses future land use, as well as transportation, community facilities and services, parks, recreation and open space, capital improvements, housing, conservation and coastal management among other development considerations within the County.



The airport has also been included in the Florida Aviation System Plan (FASP). The latest FASP, compiled in 1992, is currently in the process of being updated. This document provides a planning and administrative tool which is used as an outline and guide for administering and directing the Aviation System Plan for the State of Florida. This plan classifies Southwest Florida International Airport as only one of three commercial service airports in the Southwest Florida Planning Area. The other two commercial service airports are Naples and Sarasota-Bradenton.