Master Plan Introduction

Highlights

1) The Duluth Airport Authority (DAA) is completing a Master Plan to help the airport meet our communities' aviation needs for the next 20 years
2) Build our future. Together. Learn how to get involved and receive updates

Duluth International Airport Master Plan – Vision 2040

The Duluth Airport Authority (DAA) has begun an Airport Master Plan update. The master planning process began in summer 2019 and is expected to last until 2022.

A Master Plan is a comprehensive study of an airport that describes short-, medium- and long-term development plans. The main goal of a Master Plan is to provide the framework necessary to guide future development that will cost-effectively satisfy aviation demand, while considering potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts. The existing and proposed conditions are graphically represented on the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) that accompanies the Master Plan.

The DAA wishes to complete a Master Plan update to ensure that the airport continues to operate in a safe and efficient manner while consideration is given to inclusive and comprehensive long-term planning.

Specific objectives of the DAA for this Master Plan update include the following:

- Anticipate the evolving demand for air service and aviation in our region
- Better respond to the needs of general aviation
- Provide opportunities for businesses to grow or relocate to Duluth
- Improve agility in responding to tomorrow's opportunities and challenges
- Maintain the DAA's financial sustainability
- Complement its neighboring communities

DULUTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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The Master Plan will identify projects, which may be implemented at varying times as needed in the 20-year planning term. Prior to implementation, each project must undergo additional analysis including environmental review through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). For some projects, additional environmental permitting may also be needed. Additionally, project funding must be secured for each project prior to implementation. Funding sources may include FAA, MnDOT, the Duluth Airport Authority and other sources.

Master Plan Components

The Master Plan process includes the following major components:

- Inventory of existing conditions
- Aviation activity forecasts
- Demand/capacity analysis
- Identification of facility requirements
- Alternatives analysis and selection of preferred development alternatives
- Environmental overview
- Airport Layout Plan (ALP)
- Implementation Plan including Capital Improvement Plan

The deliverables of the Master Plan include:

- Master Plan Report – The report documents the analysis and conclusions reached during the planning process. The FAA accepts the Master Plan and has approval authority over the forecasts contained within.
- Executive Summary Report – The executive summary is a concise summary of the analysis, recommendations and decisions made in the planning process.
- Airport Layout Plan (ALP) – A scaled graphical depiction of the existing and proposed airport development included in the Master Plan. In addition to the DAA, the FAA and MnDOT Office of Aeronautics also have approval authority over the ALP.
- Website and outreach materials – A project webpage will be used to share project information with the public. Additionally, flyers, newsletters, a blog and other material will be developed and shared throughout the project.

Build Our Future. Together. Get Involved!

Project information and updates will be provided throughout the project on a dedicated project webpage on the Duluth Airport website. Project updates, meeting agendas and minutes, newsletters, events calendar, blog and review documents will all be posted on this site. Please consider signing up on the website to receive email project updates.

Website: DuluthAirport.com/Vision2040

We welcome and look forward to the public's involvement in this process. Project public open houses and events will be posted on the project webpage. Additionally, several committees will be formed throughout the project.