



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

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6020 28th Avenue South, Suite 102
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June 8, 2021

Mr. Mark Papko, Operations Director
Duluth International Airport
4701 Grinden Dr.
Duluth, MN 55811

Duluth International Airport (DLH) – Duluth, MN
Approval of Master Plan Forecast

Dear Mr. Papko:

This forecast was prepared at the same time as the evolving impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Forecast approval is based on the methodology, data, and conclusions at the time the document was prepared. However, consideration of the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on aviation activity is warranted to acknowledge the reduced confidence in growth projections using currently-available data.

Accordingly, FAA approval of this forecast does not constitute justification for future projects. Justification for future projects will be made based on activity levels at the time the project is requested for development. Documentation of actual activity levels meeting planning activity levels will be necessary to justify AIP funding for eligible projects.

This forecast approval is subject to the caveats identified above being inserted as a disclaimer at the beginning of the forecast document and applicable master plan chapters.

A summary of the Draft Master Plan’s forecast information is provided in the table below.

	Base Year (2018)	20-Year Forecast (2038)	Master Plan Source
Based Aircraft	68	85	Table 3-38
Aircraft Operations	62,600	78,739	Table 3-38
Civilian Critical Design Aircraft	C-III, A319 (TDG 3)	C-III, A319 (TDG 3)	Section 3.15.3
Military Critical Design Aircraft	D-I, F-16 Fighting Falcon (TDG 1A)	D-I, F-16 Fighting Falcon (TDG 1A)	Section 3.15.3
Source: Draft Master Plan prepared by SEH, Draft received May 6, 2021			

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this information further, please feel welcome to contact me at (612) 253-4641 or gina.mitchell@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Mitchell, AICP, Community Planner
Dakota-Minnesota Airports District Office, Minneapolis Office

cc: Matt Stewart, SEH (email)
Kaci Nowicki, SEH (email)
Jake Martin, FAA (email)
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Tom Klevan, MnDOT Aeronautics (email)

Table 3-38 – Airport Master Plan Forecast Summary

	2018	2023	2028	2038	CAGR*		
					2023	2028	2038
Passenger Enplanements							
Air Carrier	70,876	36,799	53,298	177,720	-12.3%	-2.8%	4.7%
Commuter	69,609	108,201	99,412	---	9.2%	3.6%	---
Total	140,485	145,000	152,710	177,720	0.6%	0.8%	1.2%
Operations							
<u>Itinerant</u>							
Air Carrier	1,354	1,219	1,746	6,448	-2.1%	2.6%	8.1%
Commuter	4,242	6,018	5,302	---	7.2%	2.3%	---
Air Cargo	517	541	566	620	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
Air Taxi	3,274	3,274	3,274	3,274	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total Commercial	9,387	11,052	10,888	10,342	3.3%	1.5%	0.5%
General Aviation	24,917	25,356	25,803	26,720	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Total Itinerant	34,304	36,408	36,691	37,062	1.2%	0.7%	0.4%
<u>Local</u>							
General Aviation	24,122	26,141	29,491	36,055	1.6%	2.0%	2.0%
Military	4,174	4,497	4,844	5,622	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Total Operations	62,600	67,046	71,026	78,739	1.4%	1.3%	1.2%
Annual Instrument Approaches	1,364	1,387	1,413	1,463	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%
Peak Hour Operations	3	4	4	4	5.9%	2.9%	1.4%
Enplaned Air Freight (tons)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Based Aircraft	68	72	76	85	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Operational Factors							
<u>Average Aircraft Size</u>							
Air Carrier	93	101	96	81	1.8%	0.3%	-0.7%
Commuter	50	50	50	---	0.0%	0.0%	---
Total	60	59	61	81	-0.6%	0.2%	1.5%
<u>Enplaned Load Factor</u>							
Air Carrier	71.2%	59.8%	63.5%	67.8%	-3.4%	-1.1%	-0.2%
Commuter	84.8%	72.0%	75.0%	---	-3.2%	-1.2%	---
Total	77.7%	68.5%	70.6%	67.8%	-2.5%	-1.0%	-0.7%
GA operations per based aircraft	721	715	728	739	-0.2%	0.1%	0.1%