

Duluth Airport Authority

Hangar 101 Environmental Assessment

DAA Board Presentation – February 15, 2022



Hangar 101 Background



- Constructed in the 1950s and at the end of its useful life
- Vacant, no tenants
- Beyond its useful life
- Preliminary design of demolition is complete (Funded by MnDOT Aeronautics)
- Completed steps
 - ✓ Regulated Materials Assessment – Identification of regulated material removal needed during demolition (asbestos, etc.)
 - ✓ Architectural history Reconnaissance Survey and Intensive Evaluation
 - ✓ Preliminary design
- Long term, the site will be available for future redevelopment

Hangar 101 Background

- Because the FAA has an approval action related to the reuse of the site (converting from a hangar use to open space/aircraft parking, and ultimately hangar redevelopment), there is a federal action, and the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) applies to the project.**
- Architectural History Intensive Evaluation recommended the project as **Eligible for Listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)**
 - Eligible under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture
- Projects that impact properties that are Eligible for Listing on the NRHP are required to be evaluated through an **Environmental Assessment (EA)** for the NEPA action



NEPA – What's the goal?

- **Objective:** Informed decision making
- Ensures consideration of environmental factors in final decision
- Requires:
 - Documentation – full disclosure
 - Public and agency involvement
 - Consideration of analysis & feedback prior to decision
- **FAA Order 1050.1F** provides the FAA policies and procedures to ensure agency compliance with NEPA.

NEPA – What's the goal?

- NEPA does not:
 - Prohibit adverse environmental effects
 - Require a federal agency to place environmental concerns above other factors critical to a decision
 - Select the environmentally preferable alternative
- NEPA does:
 - Require federal agencies to:
 - Document analysis
 - Disclose impacts
 - Consider analysis and feedback

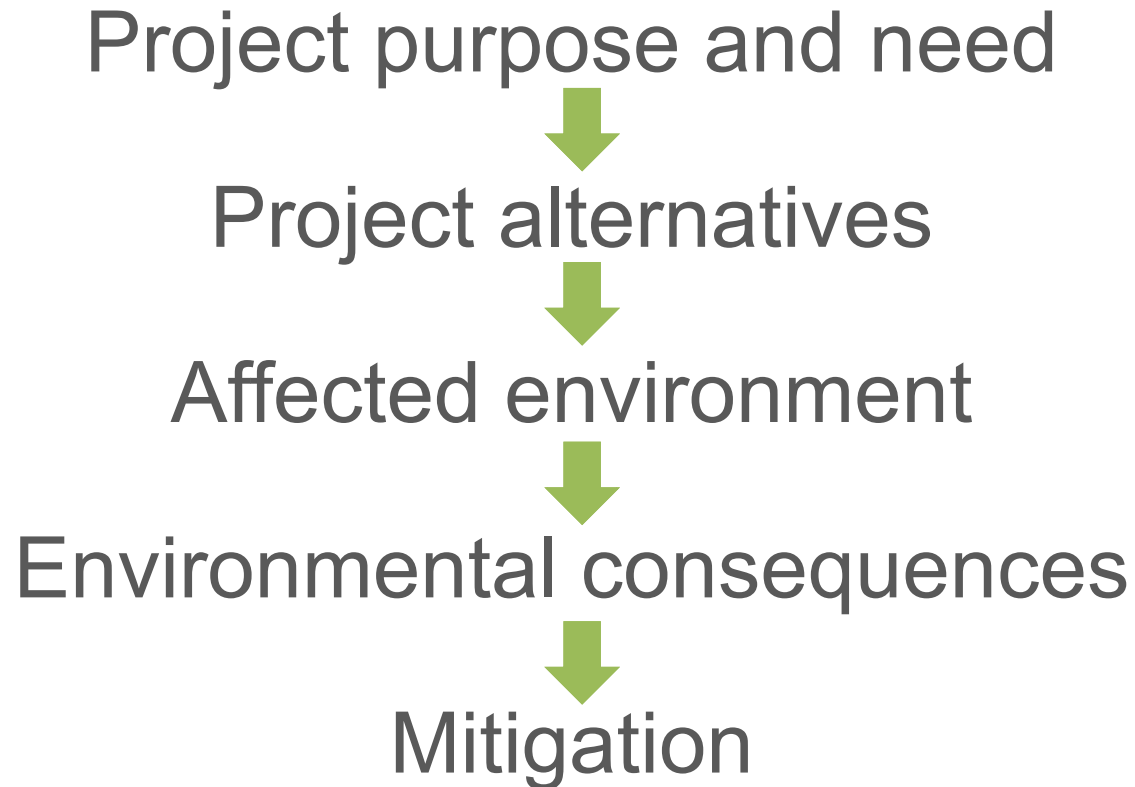
NEPA – Levels of Review

- Categorical Exclusion
 - Actions that have been demonstrated to not typically have a significant effect on the environment.
- Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - No significant impacts anticipated
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Significant impacts expected/major project

We are here



EA Process



Public Involvement

FAA EA Decision Documents



- Continued validity of NEPA document depends upon:
 - Timing – Typically valid for 3 years
 - Major steps towards implementation must occur within 3 years
 - No major project changes (i.e. Did you expand or change your project?)
 - No changes to affected environment (i.e. Do you have a new protected species?)

Hangar 101 EA Process

- 2022 MnDOT Grant funding the EA
- Document Preparation (2022)
 - Architectural Evaluation by 106 Group **complete**
 - Preliminary design **complete**
 - Agency Coordination/Concurrence
 - SHPO
 - Department of Interior
 - FAA legal review

Hangar 101 EA Schedule

- Public and Agency Review (Fall 2022)
 - 40-day comment period
- FAA FONSI preparation (winter 2022/2023)