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# APPENDIX B

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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT REPORT

## **Public Involvement Strategy Summary Report**

### Jerome County Airport Master Plan Update

#### **Executive Summary**

The Jerome County Airport (KJER) is conducting a Master Plan Update to consider current and future needs and identify improvement alternatives. The master planning process includes analyzing existing airport uses and facilities, forecasting future demands, and considering available land use options. The results of this analysis will produce short, intermediate, and long-term recommendations to the Airport, and will effectively update the Airport Layout Plan (ALP). The ALP was last updated in 2012. Since then, the Airport's needs have changed, including new hangar development, an increased base of users, and the incorporation of a Fixed Based Operator.

Public Involvement (PI) is an essential component of the master plan, as it provides the opportunity to collect key stakeholder and user perspectives at specific points in the process. The public involvement strategy includes:

1. Stakeholder interviews
2. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
3. A project webpage for public and TAC access
4. Public information meetings
5. Presentations to County Commissioners
6. Ongoing availability of PI representative for public queries

#### **Stakeholder Assessment**

Conducting one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders is an effective function of public involvement (PI). At the onset of an airport master plan update (AMP Update) study, stakeholder interviews help to gain an understanding of the community's relationship with the airport and potential opportunities for improvements. Stakeholder input helps inform the public involvement strategy moving forward.

In the fall of 2021, Bryant Kuechle of the Langdon Group, a subsidiary of J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc., conducted stakeholder interviews for the Jerome County Airport Master Plan Update. Interviews were conducted in person and electronically based on stakeholder convenience. Stakeholders were selected to provide a holistic representation of perspectives, including Federal agencies, airport users, tenants, businesses, and the Jerome County community. Key stakeholder meetings were held with Jerome 20/20 Economic Development; Jerome City Mayor; Jerome City staff; airport tenants and pilots; local industry; neighboring property owners; South Idaho Recreation and Tourism; and the Bureau of Land Management. Interviews focused on user-experience, identifying opportunities and preferences for facilities improvements, and overall community effects.

Key themes emerged from these conversations centered on the need for a longer runway to meet the growing demand by the FBO and local industry; airport promotion and building community awareness of the asset; and the need for facility upgrades in the form of additional hangars and roadway improvements. The following is a comprehensive summation of the feedback collected.

### Runway Length

- Needed for larger aircraft and/or jets include Sun Valley Allen Group overflow
- Many subdivisions planned in the direction of the airport that should be considered with a new runway's RPZ. Concern exists that airport growth and city growth boundaries will converge.
- High School and Horizon elementary appear to be in the direct path
- Purchasing property should not be necessary, existing airport property is sufficient
- AgriBeef is building a 273,000 square foot facility near airport with 400 employees and is banking on a longer runway. They have a Lear 75 in Boise that they will fly into Jerome 1-2 times each week in the summer. They also have investors with a King Air and jet that would fly into Jerome with a longer runway.
- Concern by property owners north and northeast that they will need to reconfigure irrigation if expanded runway impacts their property.

### Promotion

- Build awareness in region about the benefits of using this airport including proximity to Twin Falls and the interstate
- New, professional sign is needed
- Market FBO for events to bring attention
- Improve entry

### Facility improvements

- Addition of FBO has helped with needed improvements
- City water and sewer is getting closer as city grows and could serve the airport if there is interest
- Hangar space west of Scott Jackson available for taxi way and hangar growth with fill dirt in place
- Consider road-side/air-side development opportunities on highway including shipping
- Improve road system at east end with new entrance
- Pave roads to decrease runway FOD

### **Technical Advisory Committee**

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of representatives from the Airport Board, Airport based businesses, the FBO, local industry and the Jerome County Commission, convened on Feb. 2, 2022. This kickoff meeting focused on the findings of the inventory study; stakeholder feedback; aviation forecast; runway length analysis; planning for needs and garnering input regarding potential alternatives.

The TAC reconvened on May 17, 2022, to discuss airport needs and requirements; alternative depictions and future layout; and to gather feedback on alternatives and preferences. Interest was primarily focused on the extended runway, additional hangars, and the potential for a destination restaurant on airport property.

The TAC will hold two more meetings before the conclusion of the AMP Update process to offer input on the phasing plan and ALP drawings and finalize the ALP Update narrative and drawing set.

## **Public Meetings**

In addition to the expert input gathered through the TAC, it is equally important to provide the community at large the opportunity to learn about the MPU, the value of the Airport as a community asset, and provide input regarding the potential alternatives to the runway and facilities. On May 17, 2022, seven members of the public attended a public open house held at Precision Aviation, adjacent to the airport pilot lounge. Representatives from the consulting team, TAC and Airport Manager were available to answer questions and receive comments, that centered on the runway extension and facility improvements.

The open house announcement was featured in print and social media through the Northside Journal, received by all residents of Jerome County. Fliers were posted at public locations throughout the community and a news release was sent to local media outlets. Other outlets including Jerome 20/20 Economic Development and South Idaho Recreation and Tourism also shared the information with their networks.

Prior to the open house, Precision Aviation and Jerome 20/20 Economic Development hosted an Economic Development Forum on April 28, 2022, with Governor Brad Little, where the MPU was a centerpiece of discussion.

An additional open house event is planned to provide the community an additional opportunity to offer input on the Draft Jerome County AMP Update and ALP drawing set.

Kent Atkin, P.E. of J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc. presented the preferred alternative to the Jerome County Board of Commissioners on August 8, 2022. This presentation provided community members an additional opportunity to learn about the project and provide comment. The consulting team will present another two times to the Board prior to the completion of the AMP Update process.

Throughout the public involvement process, all information was shared and updated at the project webpage: [jermasterplan.jub.com](http://jermasterplan.jub.com).