



# St. Mary's Airport Improvements: Planning & Runway Safety Area Practicability Study

**Project Number: Z605630000**

## Public Involvement Plan

**Date: April 3, 2018**

Prepared by:

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## Section 1. General Information

### **Project Scope and Background**

The purpose of the project is to develop and evaluate Runway Safety Area (RSA) improvement alternatives at the St. Mary's Airport. St. Mary's is the farthest upriver hub community on the Yukon River with deep-water barge access. St. Mary's is not connected to the road system and the airport is vital to distribution of goods and supplies to the surrounding communities.

The airport consists of a 6,008-foot long by 150-foot wide north-south runway, Runway 17/35, and a 1,520-foot long by 60-foot wide crosswind runway, Runway 06/24. Both runways are gravel with deteriorating crushed aggregate surfacing. The crosswind runway is so rough that pilots generally avoid it.

Runway 17/35 is designated as suitable for use by large aircraft with a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airplane Design Group C-III, such as the Boeing 737-200 and McDonnell Douglas DC-6. However, Runway 17/35 does not meet FAA's C-III RSA dimensional criteria. FAA requires the RSA extend 1,000-feet beyond each runway end and have a width of 300 feet. Currently, the RSA only extends approximately 200 feet beyond each end of Runway 17/35. The FAA has stated that the RSA must meet current standards before grant funding will be awarded for the surfacing upgrades and other related improvements. The overall objective of this project is to prepare an aviation activity forecast and practicability study for the St. Mary's Airport. The RSA practicability study may be used to develop RSA improvement alternatives to meet FAA standards and evaluate the cultural, socioeconomic, operational, and environmental impacts of each alternative.

### **Purpose of Public Involvement**

The primary purposes of public involvement during RSA alternative development are:

- Educate airport stakeholders about possible alternatives.
- Seek information to develop an aviation forecast.
- Develop conditions and needs assessment.
- Provide timely and accurate information about the project to agency and public stakeholders.
- Receive feedback that will strengthen the project design and limit controversy.
- Grow a strong stakeholder contact list for use during future project implementation and eventual environmental documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The team will acknowledge comments and concerns in the format received and provide feedback on how the input influenced project decisions, or if it did not, then why not.

### **Project Team**

Owner

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (Department/ADOT&PF)  
2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
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*Melissa Jensen (Missy)*, Environmental Analyst, (907) 451-5377, melissa.jensen@alaska.gov  
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#### Prime Consultant

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#### Public Involvement Subconsultant

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Homestead Graphics (website and print graphics)  
*Jan Hazen*, Graphic Artist, (907) 230-3111, homesteadgraphics@gmail.com

## Section 2. Agency and Public Stakeholders

Below is an initial list of stakeholders. These entities will be included in the project outreach and mailing list using both U.S. Postal Service addresses and email when available. This list will be updated throughout the project.

### **Agencies**

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Yukon River Area Biologist
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources
- Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
- Alaska Fire Service
- Alaska State Troopers
- Bureau of Land Management
- Coast Guard
- Federal Aviation Administration, Air Traffic Organization
- Federal Aviation Administration, Alaska Airports Division
- National Guard
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Postal Service
- Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association, Kwik'pak Fisheries Manager

## **Air Carriers**

- Alaska Air Carriers Association
- Alaska Central Express (ACE)
- Arctic Circle Air Service
- Arctic Transportation Services
- Bering Air
- Everts Air Alaska (see Tatonduk Outfitters Limited)
- Everts Air Cargo (see Tatonduk Outfitters Limited)
- Frontier Flying Service, Inc.
- Grant Aviation
- Iliamna Air Taxi, Inc.
- Inland Aviation Services
- JJM, Inc.
- Larry's Flying Service
- Lynden Air Cargo
- Northern Air Cargo
- Pen Air
- Ravn Alaska
- Ravn Connect
- Rosalind Schmeling (leaseholder)
- Ryan Air, Inc.
- Tanana Air Service
- Tatonduk Outfitters Limited (doing business as Everts Air Alaska and Everts Air Cargo)
- Village Aviation
- Warbelow's Air
- Wright Air Service

## **Local Business**

- Alaska Commercial Company
- Boreal Fisheries, Inc.
- Crowley Fuels, LLC
- Crowley Marine
- FishPeople (new processor in St. Mary's)
- Fortuna Ledge Co-Op Store (in Marshall)
- Kwikpak Fisheries LLC
- Mountain Village Native Store
- Pilot Station Native Store
- Ruby Marine (uses St. Mary's for refueling)
- Russian Mission Native Store
- Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association
- Yukon Traders (in St. Mary's)

## **Local Government**

- Area legislators
- St. Mary's
- Alakanuk
- Emmonak
- Lower Yukon School District, district office

- Marshall
- Mountain Village
- Nunam Iqua
- Pilot Station
- Pitkas Point
- St. Mary's School District, district office
- Russian Mission

### **Media**

- Radio (KSYU, KNOM)

### **Public**

- Area residents, property owners, and business owners
- Pilots
- Traveling public

### **Tribal**

- Algaaciq Native Village (St. Mary's)
- Asa'carsarmiut Tribe (Mountain Village)
- Azachorok Incorporated (Mountain Village)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Calista Corporation (regional native corporation, owns most subsurface mineral rights)
- Emmonak Corporation
- Emmonak Village
- Iqurmiut Traditional Council (Russian Mission)
- Kuskokwim Native Association (Russian Mission)
- Maserculiq, Incorporated (Marshall)
- Native Village of Marshall (Marshall)
- Native Village of Nunam Iqua
- Native Village of Pitkas Point
- Nerklilmute Native Corporation (St. Mary's)
- Pilot Station Traditional Village
- Pitkas Point Native Corporation
- Russian Mission Native Corporation (Russian Mission)
- St. Mary's Native Corporation
- Swan Lake Corporation (Nunam Iqua)
- Village of Alakanuk
- Village of Ohogamiut (Marshall)
- Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (regional health care corporation under the Alaska Tribal Health Compact)
- Yupiit of Andreafski (federally recognized tribe)

### **Utility**

- Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- GCI
- United Utilities

### Section 3. Agency and Public Involvement Methods

**Surveys.** The team will develop three surveys to collect data for the airport condition and needs assessment, which will include inventory, socioeconomic evaluation, issues identification, and aviation forecasting. One survey will be for air carriers, lease holders, and pilots, one will be for travellers, residents, elected officials, and the third will be for business owners. The surveys will close on June 5, 2018, two weeks after the public open house. Both surveys will be distributed online and in hard copy. The team will follow up with interviews as necessary. All completed surveys will be sent to the Department and then distributed to the team.

**Website.** The team will update an existing one page website at <http://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/stmarys/>. The website will provide project information and team contacts.

Draft website content:

#### **St. Mary's Airport Improvements**

Project Number: Z605630000

#### **Welcome**

Welcome to the St. Mary's Airport Improvements website.

#### **Current Status**

The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, in cooperation with the FAA, is currently developing runway safety area improvement alternatives, which involves preparation of an aviation activity forecast and completion of a practicability study. This is the first step toward other needed improvements to the St. Mary's Airport including:

- Resurfacing runways, taxiways, and apron.
- Replacing the airport lighting system.
- Upgrading the segmented circle and wind cones.

If you use the St. Mary's Airport for any reason, please fill out the appropriate survey below. Hard copies of the survey are available at City Hall and the St. Mary's Airport. The surveys close on June 5, 2018. The purpose of the survey is to gather information for the airport condition and needs assessment.

Survey for air carriers, lease holders, and pilots.

Survey for travellers, residents, and elected officials.

Survey for business owners.

#### **Want to talk about the project or request a presentation?**

Contact Anne Brooks, Public Involvement Coordinator, at (907) 272-1877 or [comments.brooksalaska@gmail.com](mailto:comments.brooksalaska@gmail.com).

Button: Sign up for our email list

#### **Schedule**

Condition and Needs Assessment: March to November 2018

Public Open House: April 26, 2018

#### **Project Scope and Background**

The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate and resurface the runways, taxiways, and apron at the St. Mary's Airport. St. Mary's is the farthest upriver hub community on the Yukon

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River with deep-water barge access. The airport is vital to distribution of goods and supplies to the surrounding communities.

The airport consists of a 6,008-foot long by 150-foot wide north-south runway, Runway 17/35, and a 1,520-foot long by 60-foot wide crosswind runway, Runway 06/24. Both runways are gravel with deteriorated crushed aggregate surfacing. The crosswind runway is so rough that pilots generally avoided it.

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### **Documents**

Public Involvement Plan (coming soon)  
Survey for air carriers, lease holders, and pilots  
Survey for travellers, residents, and elected officials  
Survey for business owners

### **Links to area projects**

[Mountain Village Airport Surface Preservation](#)  
[Mountain Village Airport Snow Removal Equipment Building Replacement](#)  
[Russian Mission Airport Surface Preservation Maintenance](#)  
[Russian Mission New Street Lights](#)

**Mailing List.** The public involvement team will develop a postal mailing list and email list for the project. The initial list will include the agency and public stakeholders listed above. Local residents and businesses will be contacted using an all box holders mailing to the following zip codes:

- 99658 St. Mary's and Pitkas Point (approximately 234 addresses)
- 99554 Alakanuk (approximately 199 addresses)
- 99581 Emmonak (approximately 133 addresses)
- 99585 Marshall (approximately 131 addresses)
- 99632 Mountain Village (approximately 188 addresses)
- 99650 Pilot Station (approximately 26 addresses)
- 99657 Russian Mission (approximately 103 addresses)
- 99666 Nunam Iqua (approximately 48 addresses)

**Print Media.** The project team will send an initial mailer to stakeholders to introduce the project and to launch the survey. Other print media will include fact sheets, and comment sheets to be updated periodically throughout the project.

**Media Communications.** Local media will receive informational project communications such as postcards and newsletters and any earned media stories will help keep the public informed throughout the project. The open house will be advertised on the local radio station.

**Meetings.** One open-house style public meeting will be held in St. Mary's on April 26, 2018. Meeting tasks will include outreach, meeting materials, attendance, documentation, Civil Rights Title VI

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reports, and follow-up. Meeting outreach will give two weeks of notice and include a combination of the following: mailers, email notices and reminders, State of Alaska online notices, GovDelivery notices, Northern Region online public involvement calendar events, flyers, and radio advertising. The airport inspection will take place the same day as the public meeting and requires snow-free conditions. This and avoiding fishing season were the driving factors in selecting the meeting date.

Other meetings will be arranged by request. The Alaska Aviation Industry is hosting the Alaska Air Carriers Association Annual Convention & Trade Show on May 2 and 3, 2018, at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport and has requested the project team assist in providing a project update.

**Stakeholder Communications.** Brooks & Associates will receive, forward, document, and prepare responses for stakeholder comments for Department approval and summarize comments in a comment and response summary table to accompany the final RSA study document.

**Public Involvement Documentation.** Throughout the project, all incoming and outgoing communications with the public and other project stakeholders will be filed electronically. Upon completion of the design, Brooks & Associates will prepare close out documentation in accordance with Department policy. Documentation will include a comment and response summary, and indexed public involvement documents.

A tentative schedule for public involvement activities follows.

**Table 1. Public Involvement Schedule**

Activity	Date
<b>Public Involvement Plan</b>	
Draft	March 2018
Final	April 2018
<b>Mailing list preparation</b>	March 2018
Update as needed	
<b>Public open house</b>	April 26, 2018
<b>Survey launch</b>	April 2018
Mailer	
State of Alaska online notice/GovDelivery	
Email notice and reminder	
Northern Region online public involvement calendar	
Flyer	
Radio advertisement	
<b>Organization/small group meetings</b>	
Alaska Air Carriers Association Annual Convention & Trade Show	May 2 and 3, 2018
<b>Website updates</b>	March 2018
As needed	

Activity	Date
<b>Documentation</b> Respond to/document public input Scoping summary report Comment response summary Closeout documentation	Project duration July 2018 October 2018 November 2018

#### Section 4. Civil Rights Compliance

The project team will comply with Title VI, Environmental Justice, Limited English Proficiency, and Americans with Disabilities Act regulations and take measures to ensure that the project is available to all. The team reviewed the following U. S. Census Bureau data to determine how to best comply.

**Table 2. Demographics**

Community	Population (2010-2017 estimate)	Persons Alaska Native tribes	Persons 65 years and over	Female persons	Median household income
St. Mary's	566	92%	7%	47%	\$43,000
Russian Mission	410	96%	2%	50%	\$36,000
Pitkas Point	109	100%	4%	57%	\$48,000
Pilot Station	609	98%	6%	48%	\$33,000
Mountain Village	749	94%	5%	49%	\$39,000
Marshall	444	95%	5%	51%	\$32,000

Actions to ensure compliance with civil rights:

- Provide interpretation and/or translation if requested or if the project team decides it would be beneficial.
- Provide parallel online opportunities to comment at all stages of the project to increase accessibility.
- Prepare a mailing list for stakeholders including agency and public stakeholders listed above. Local residents and businesses will be contacted using an all box holders mailing to ensure people of all races and income levels near the project receive notice and have opportunities to participate.
- Insert the following language in all notifications sent to project stakeholders:

*The Department operates Federal Programs without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Full Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy: [dot.alaska.gov/tvi\\_statement.shtml](http://dot.alaska.gov/tvi_statement.shtml). To file a complaint, go to: [dot.alaska.gov/cvlrts/titlevi.shtml](http://dot.alaska.gov/cvlrts/titlevi.shtml).*

*The Department complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have disabilities and need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to*

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*participate in this public meeting, contact Jill Reese, 907-269-0772. To use a text telephone device, dial 711 for the relay service. Requests should be made at least three days before the accommodation is needed make any necessary arrangements.*

- Use Department Title VI sign-in sheets for all public meetings.
- Prepare a Title VI report for all public meetings.
- Make Department civil rights brochures available at public meetings and events.
- Convene events in venues that meet accessibility guidelines.

### Section 5. Environmental Documentation

To support environmental documentation for the project, the public involvement team will document all communication with the public and agencies. An issues/response summary will be prepared and regularly updated. All documentation will be captured electronically for the project administrative record.

### Section 6. Communications

Christopher Johnston, P.E., ADOT&PF Project Manager, or Melissa Jensen, DOT&PF Environmental Analyst, will review all public involvement communications with the public and initiate communications with agencies.

The single point of contact for media interviews is Christopher Johnston.

All public involvement telephone and email communications will be documented by email and shared with the team.

### Section 7. Approval

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ADOT&PF Project Manager

Date