



January 7, 2008

To: Airport Futures Planning Advisory Group
From: Chris Corich and Jay Sugnet
Re: Airport Futures Project Sideboards

To date, the Airport Futures Team (Port and City staff and consultants) provided a number of presentations aimed at defining the Airport Futures planning process, including the project timeline and milestones, the regulatory and policy framework, the study area boundaries, and the history that has defined the work before us. As we move ahead with the initial tasks (inventory, forecast, facility requirements), it is important to keep in mind that a significant body of work exists from the previous master plan. We are not starting this process from scratch, but, rather, beginning where the last master plan ended.

The 2004 Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and Port defines significant portions of this planning process. As a result, a review of the 2000 Master Plan and Follow-On Studies are considered key components of this effort and an essential step that must be taken before moving forward. The PAG will be provided with the background needed to understand the 2000 Master Plan Alternatives and the many other alternatives considered prior to selecting those two. Further, we will provide the PAG with the information necessary to understand the facility requirements' calculations that resulted in the plans that were developed. We will also review the follow-on studies and discuss the potential impact of those studies on decisions to be made in the Master Plan Update. This analysis will take place prior to, and during, the Alternatives Analysis to ensure the PAG is able to make fully informed decisions.

Following the 2000 Master Plan, the Regional Air Transportation Demand Task Force reviewed the Master Plan and made some key recommendations including recommendations to preserve flexibility, so that plans can be adjusted as more information is available; maximize the capacity of the existing facility; and preserve options for future growth. These recommendations are captured in the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City and Port and continue to guide how we approach the Master Plan Update and Legislative Land Use Process.

It is essential to understand that Airport Futures is proposed as an update of the 2000 Master Plan and that there will be future updates (every 7-10 years). As with past plans, the projects identified in the Master Plan Update will be demand driven, not time-based, and the plan and the projects identified in the plan will be reviewed and revised in the future as appropriate to reflect changing circumstances.

The approach to the Forecast Phase, Facility Requirements, Alternatives Analysis, and the adoption of Sustainability as a key theme throughout the planning process is consistent with the Intergovernmental Agreement vision that this Master Plan Update would include a broader focus than previous facilities plans and would incorporate the information learned from the various follow-on studies. It is important that we begin this process with a realistic understanding of

what aviation activity will be in the future. The Forecast Phase is intended to provide that understanding and enable us to evaluate the consequences of the development alternatives as well as the consequences of doing nothing.

The attached Updated PAG Triage of Project Assumptions matrix identifies a list of topics that were the subject of the 2000 Master Plan, Follow-on Studies, or are currently issues under discussion at the regional or national levels. In the Staff Response/Recommendations column in the matrix, we have described how these important issues fit into the broader discussion of Airport Futures, while trying to make appropriate distinctions on which issues can be dealt with effectively in the Airport Futures planning process and which issues require a different context and timeframe for meaningful study. This exercise in defining the sideboards for the Airport Futures planning process is needed to help ensure the completion of the Port Master Plan Update and City Land Use Plan within the promised timeframe of three years – a commitment we have made to the PAG and Port and City decision-makers. Most importantly, this exercise allows us to identify PAG members' specific issues and offer clarity at the outset of the planning process about when those issues will be addressed.

At our next PAG meeting, we will go through each of these issues using the votes from the PAG Triage and determine where there is PAG consensus, and where there are still areas of disagreement. We look forward to this discussion.

Attachment