

Public Involvement Plan

Kivalina Airport Relocation Feasibility Study

June 2023
State Program Number NFAPT00742

Prepared for:

State of Alaska
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, Northern Region
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Prepared by:

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
725 E Fireweed Lane, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
1 INTRODUCTION	3
2 MASTER PLAN COORDINATION	3
3 PUBLIC OUTREACH.....	3
3.1 PUBLIC MEETINGS	3
3.2 WEBSITE	4
3.3 MAILING LIST.....	4
3.4 INFORMATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS: NEWSLETTERS, EMAILS, AND FACT SHEETS	4
3.5 ADVERTISEMENT	5
3.6 COMMENT COLLECTION.....	5
4 POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS	5
5 PROJECT CONTACTS.....	6
5.1 DOT&PF – NORTHERN REGION.....	6
5.2 STANTEC	6

1 INTRODUCTION

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northern Region (DOT&PF) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) are conducting an Airport Relocation Feasibility Study at Kivalina. An Airport Relocation Feasibility Study begins the process of studying the feasibility of maintaining the current airport or constructing a new airport site on the mainland.

The purpose of the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to encourage dialogue and sufficiently inform the public, airport users, and resource agencies during the planning process. A combination of public meetings, a project website, and mailing lists will meet the objective of providing early opportunities in the planning process to take comments about potential issues before major decisions are made.

2 MASTER PLAN COORDINATION

Kivalina is actively developing a community master plan to relocate the community off the barrier spit in addition to the Airport Relocation Feasibility Study. This project will maintain close coordination with that community master plan, to coordinate all community planning efforts.

3 PUBLIC OUTREACH

3.1 Public Meetings

Two public meetings will be held during the Airport Relocation Feasibility Study; at the (a) Existing Conditions and (b) Alternative stages. The purpose of the meetings will be to update the public, field questions, and receive feedback on the project.

The first meeting will focus on collecting inventory, baseline data, and existing threats to the airport. The meeting will first describe what an Airport Relocation Feasibility Study is, including its purpose, primary components, and schedule. Then the meeting will provide a brief history of the airport and demonstrate how recent community planning efforts are being coordinated with the airport planning. The meeting will also begin the process of screening alternative locations

for new airport sites. The majority of the meeting will be an interactive format, focusing on allowing the public to provide input on airport needs and threats. This will be done through informal discussions in front of diagrams of the airport and formal question and answer sessions. Comment forms will also be available for the public to fill out and submit during the meeting or by mail.

The second public meeting will focus on presenting alternatives which address the needs identified in the Airport Relocation Feasibility Study. The meeting will recap the identified needs at the airport. The majority of the meeting will be spent on introducing the alternatives which address the needs identified at the airport. Alternative locations for the airport will also be presented, including maintaining the airport in the current location. The meeting will focus on stakeholders providing input on the alternative locations. The meeting will allow for informal discussion and formal comments to be documented from community members. Community members will be able to evaluate and voice support or concern about alternatives; and suggest improvements to the process.

3.2 Website

A public website will be hosted on the DOT&PF projects webpage to inform the public about the plan. This webpage will serve as a repository for documents, newsletters, and notifications about the Master Plan. Contact information for project leaders will allow the public to directly participate in the plan.

3.3 Mailing List

A mailing list will be maintained throughout the project. This live document will include all of those people who have self-identified interest in the project, and any additional stakeholders who have been identified through scoping. The mailing list will be used to update interested stakeholders about project updates, open houses, and other appropriate events.

3.4 Informational and Educational Materials: Newsletters, Emails, and Fact Sheets

These materials will be published on the project website, sent in mailings, and be available as handouts at the open house. These are used to provide the public key information about the

project, schedule, needs, and alternatives. The local Arctic Sounder newspaper and Kotzebue Public Radio (KOTZ) will also be contacted to run notifications about the project.

3.5 Advertisement

Project meetings will be advertised to the project mailing list. Advertisements for public meetings will be run in the local newspaper, the Arctic Sounder.

3.6 Comment Collection

Summaries of public meeting records, including documentation of comments received during open format discussions will be completed and appended to the Master Plan. Individual comments received through comment forms, emails, and webpage outreach will be collected and saved in the project records. Relevant comments and responses will be summarized in tabular form and included in the Master Plan.

4 POTENTIAL STAKEHOLDERS

The Kivalina Airport is an important component of the Kivalina community, providing the only year-round linkage to Kotzebue and the broader region. As a result, there are many interested parties which have been identified (below). Additional parties will be added through the outreach efforts identified above.

- City of Kivalina
- Native Village of Kivalina
- Northwest Arctic Borough
- NANA
- Crowley/Barge Operators
- Northwest Arctic Borough School District
- Airport Leaseholders
 - Alaska Village Electric Cooperative
- Commercial Operators
 - Bering Air
 - Ryan Air

- Ravn Alaska
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
- Federal Agencies
 - FAA Airport Division
 - FAA Flight Service
 - FAA Runway Safety

5 PROJECT CONTACTS

5.1 DOT&PF – Northern Region

Jonathan Hutchinson

2301 Peger Rd

Fairbanks, AK 99709

jonathan.hutchinson@alaska.gov

907-451-5479

5.2 Stantec

Ryan Cooper

725 East Fireweed Lane Suite 200

Anchorage, AK 99503

Ryan.Cooper@stantec.com

907-258-5241