

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C, Rm 9
Anchorage, Alaska

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Stormy Jarvis, Chair

Keenan Zerkel, Co-Chair

Marty Edwards (via Teams)

David Frazier

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

John Pratt (excused)

Michael Williams (excused)

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Kolby Hickel, Acting Airport Manager

Amy Garcia, Deputy Airport Manager

BreAnn Brandlen, Commission Secretary

Kirsten Bowers, Airport Accountant

Steven Kegler, Maintenance lead

1. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

Commission Chair, Stormy Jarvis called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There was no discussion or vote for the August 3, 2023, September 7, 2023 or
October 5, 2023 minutes

There was a quorum established.

3. INFORMATIONAL REPORT-

A. **CHAIR** Keenan will be running this meeting today.

B. VICE CHAIR

1. Thank you everyone for attending. I wanted to give everyone an update on what the MAAAC has been doing.

2. The new Instrument Flight Procedures (IFPs) are on hold as of right now.
 - a. There is going to be an Enterprise Oversight Committee meeting about them, and possibly an Assembly work session regarding the (IFPs).
 - b. The IFP's are on hold to verify that the public process for having them published was followed and to ensure that they meet the standards that they should.
 - c. To present and provide accurate information to the community most affected by Merrill Field Airport. To correct the misleading information that has been previously presented.
 - d. While the IFP's are on hold, the current published circling approach procedure to runway 25 is not authorized at night due to some obstructions. The Municipal Manager has directed that those obstructions be identified and lit or removed as required in the ADA process so that we can at least have the ability to land at night as we approach darkness for the safety of the aviators.
 - e. The current existing IFP has effort underway to try to bring it online, at best the new ones won't be ready in time for the January print date so we won't see them until possibly the spring of next year.

3. Budget Report

Keenan discussed the he recent two finance committee meetings that have been held:

- a. The finance committee is Keenan, Stormy, Amy and Kristen.
- b. The meetings provided a thorough review of the line items of the last three years financials, current year budget and next year's budget. The discussions included operations, capital improvements and grants.
- c. Last spring, snow removal, storage of snow and the grooming of the ski runway were high priorities of the members of the group.
- d. New snow removal equipment has been purchased with CARES money.
- e. There is some concern that there isn't a maintenance contract for repairing the equipment when the manufacturer warranty

doesn't cover the repair. We are trying to determine if that is something we can purchase using the CARES grant.

C. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Deputy Municipal Manager Kolby Hickel reported that the current Airport Manager is no longer with the Municipality of Anchorage and in the interim she will be the acting Airport Manager.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. HDL Engineering Consultants - Erik Jordt, PE, Civil Engineer

- i. Handout
- ii. Scope of work
 - 1. Schedule A; The rehab of the runway 7-25 project
 - a. Pavement, Edge lighting and controls, NAVAID and rotating beacon improvements.
 - 2. Schedule B; Rehabilitate Compass Calibration Pad
 - a. Pavement replacement, magnetic declination, and new compass rose markings.
 - 3. Schedule C; Reconstruct Orca Apron
 - a. Excavation, import of classified fill, installation of pavement and new aircraft tie-downs.
- iii. Anticipated Impacts
 - 1. Runway 7-25 will remain closed (full length) 24/7 through project duration (Spring/Summer 2025). Crossing taxiways will remain open at select locations for access to and from Taxiway Alpha.
 - 2. Runway 16-34 will have short term, nightly runway closures when work is performed on Runway 07-25 that falls within Runway 16-34 OFA/OFZ
 - 3. Runway 05/23 will remain open throughout the project and closures are not anticipated.
 - 4. 75% design will be completed by December 2023.

A discussion followed regarding final design, community outreach, and a working group to be established. Before the final design is published it is important that a special working group is formed either through the MAAAC or possibly coordinated with the Assembly and the Municipal Manager's Office. This effort is to ensure that the activities of the construction and tasks schedule is effectively communicated with the stakeholders, well-coordinated and executed.

b. Roger Hickel Contracting-Kris Squires Project Manager

- i. 4 work packages have been awarded.
- ii. Work Package 1 Building 800 Managers Office. Complete
- iii. Work Package 2 is 1025 Orca St. On target for completion
- iv. Work Package 3 is 3 Pilot Shelter upgrades.
- v. Work package 4 just awarded is for building 1568 Orca (the USGS Office). We have ordered the supplies for the job, and we do not see an issue with being done by March 2024.

5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI ATCT – Caleb Newville, Operations Supervisor Tower

- a. We had the annual snow removal meeting with Airfield Maintenance and there are no substantial changes with the order of the way things are cleared.
 - i. First the runway that most closely aligns with the wind is cleared to get it reopened, then taxiways to that runway, then the interlinks to the taxiways and finally the parking areas.
 - ii. If there is a medivac coming in, we will notify maintenance and they will clear that route from the runway to the hospital.
- b. Construction- we are working very closely with HDL and Erik Jordt. They are doing a great job keeping the tower informed of what is going on and we are giving them feedback to them as to how we can keep traffic flowing as efficiently as possible.

- c. When the Enterprise work group is formed, we would like to be invited to participate in that project.

B. CAP – None

C. AOPA – None

D. Lake Hood – None

E. AACCA - None

F. Anchorage Community Councils -Fairview Community Council

- a. There is a Fairview Community Council meeting that will be held on November 9, 2023, from 5:30-6:30 pm, Keenan will try to attend to answer any questions that may arise.
- b. The Council has installed a camera south of 15th Ave.to gather information regarding planes taking off from the gravel strip. There is concern that there are pilots who are not following the rules for flying over residential neighborhoods. We will provide the feedback and data with the MAAAC, Managers Office, and the users of Merrill Field.
- c. Vice-Chair stated: Lack of invites to the community members who may have wanted to attend the meeting. The MAAAC was not invited to it and there is some concern that there are some key people/stakeholders that could have been involved that would be able to fully answer questions.
- d. Chair Stated: It is important that the misinformation cycle that has been created be corrected so there is a complete understanding of the issues.
- e. Kent Kohlhase – Municipal Manager. Kolby Hickel and I have been discussing the public process and we recognize that it wasn't done well until now. In addition to community council meeting next week, and any assembly work session or the enterprise oversight committee that is run by the assembly I would expect that we will have a public meeting managed by the airport or the airports contractor for the IFP's that is solely dedicated to discussing the IFP's. We are aware that there has been misinformation regarding the scope of the IFP's and we want to make sure they are answered to the community's satisfaction.

G. Snow removal plan

- a. Steve Kegler- Maintenance
 - i. Caleb earlier discussed the priorities of removal of snow
 - ii. Service agreements are in place for the new snow removal equipment that goes through 2028 on the loaders. The new graders have service agreements through 2025.
- b. Keenan understands that we have approval to hire the Maintenance Technician and that we can fund it using the CARES grant.
- c. Rules/Processes/Procedures need to be established for ski strip grooming by volunteers.
The grooming equipment has not been received yet. Once received and they have a chance to identify how it will be used, the process/procedure for its use will be developed.
- d. Keenan asked about using the rest of the CARES grant before it expires and discussed possibilities of additional service agreements on other purchased equipment and stocking up on supplies

H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dan Owen: Has made a graphic showing the new instrument approaches that isn't misinformed, and would be happy to provide them to the Fairview Community Council.

Keenan asked Dan to give everyone information about his background.

Noise issues: Fairview Community Council (FVCC) "I called the tower, they said to call the Managers office. The manager's office said to call the tower. I couldn't get an answer as to who should be informed regarding the noise or improper flight patterns over the neighborhoods."

Caleb, ATCT- FAA works with the Airport manager's office to manage noise, it is not something the Tower is responsible for. The Tower is responsible for traffic separation. We don't have a formal noise abatement program here. We do have charted flight paths that are used to help us keep planes apart. We do use common sense patterns, and we try to be aware of where we are placing them.

Lucas Merrill-Owner of Angel Aviation offered his personal time and plane to explain and/or fly the FVCC president out of Merrill Field so he can see firsthand why pilots must sometimes fly over the neighborhoods due to not having enough altitude and speed to be able to make turns safely.

6. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Keenan The meeting agenda and meeting minutes are published on the MAAAC website.

Keenan: made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Stormy seconded.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next Airport User Group Meeting January 3, 2024, 5:00PM, at the Airport Manager's office.

The next MAAAC meeting will be Thursday December 7, 2023 (Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C, Rm 9)

8. ADJOURNMENT at 1:02 p.m.

Merrill Field Airport Improvements: Rehabilitate Runway 07/25

Questions?

Please contact Erik Jordt, PE | Civil Engineer
HDL Engineering Consultants
ejordt@hdlalaska.com | 907-564-2154



Scope of Work

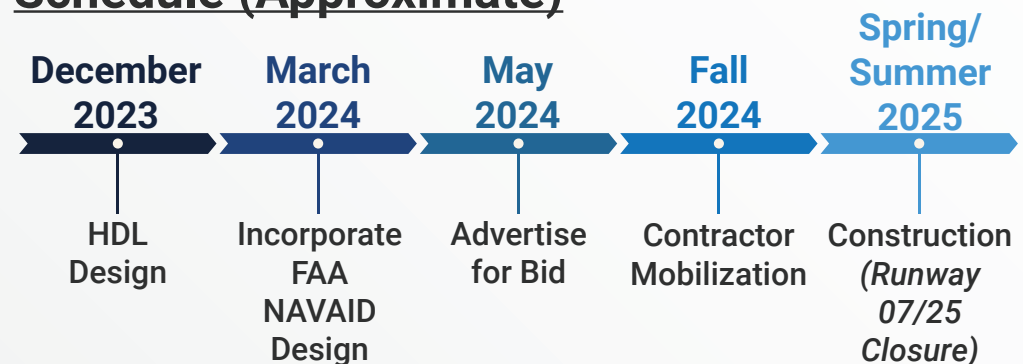
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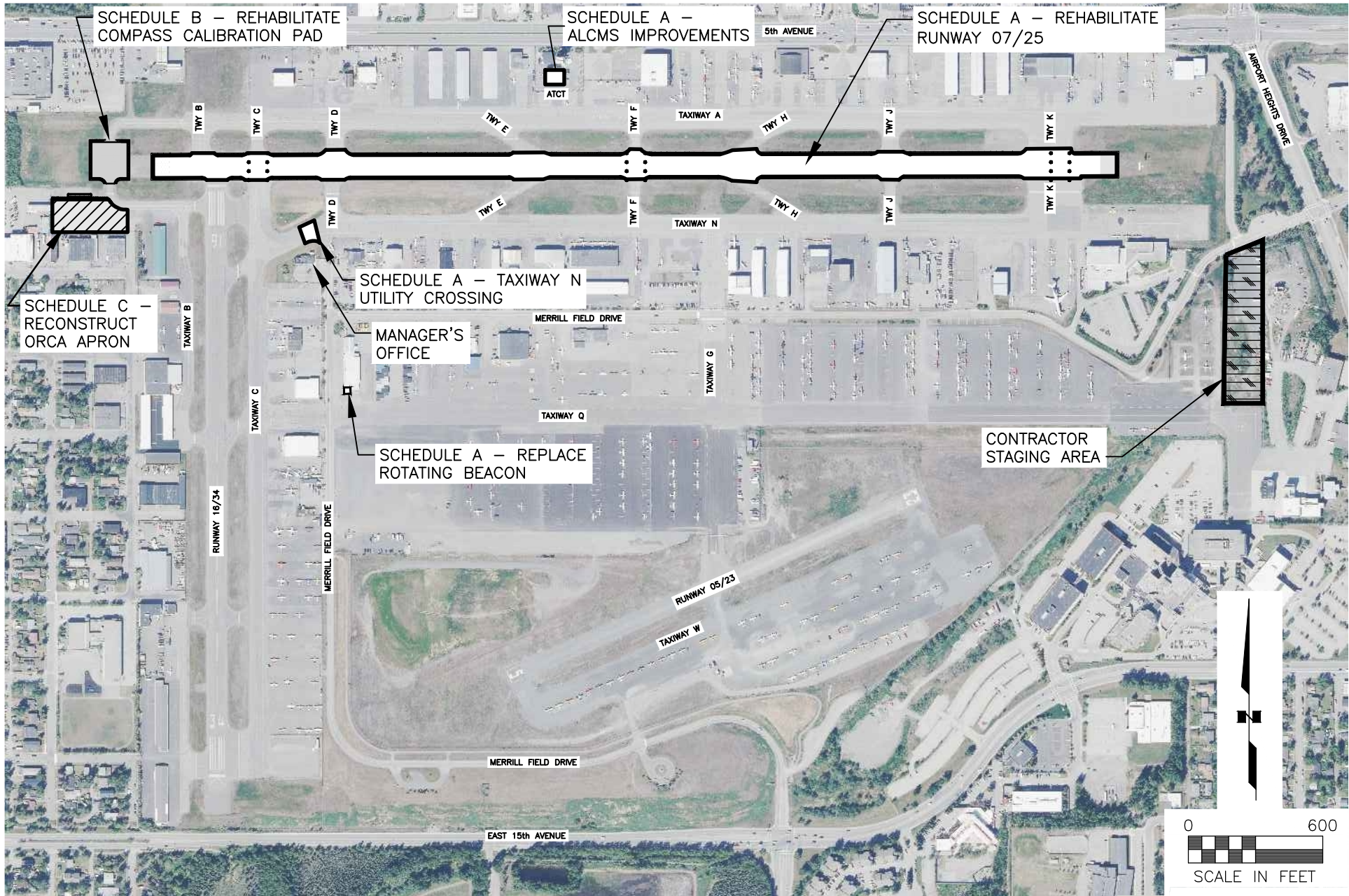
- **Schedule A - Rehabilitation of Runway 07/25:** Pavement, Edge Lighting & Controls, NAVAID, and Rotating Beacon Improvements
- **Schedule B - Rehabilitate Compass Calibration Pad:** Pavement replacement, magnetic declination, and new compass rose markings
- **Schedule C - Reconstruct Orca Apron:** Excavation, import of classified fill, installation of pavement and new aircraft tie-downs

Anticipated Impacts

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Schedule (Approximate)





2024 Merrill Field Airport Improvements
Rehabilitate Runway 07/25

