

AVIATION BOARD BACKGROUND LETTER

Aviation Board Meeting Date: March 21st, 2022

To: Chair Richmond and Aviation Board Members

Cc: Mitch Reynolds, Mayor

From: Ian Turner, Airport Director

Subject: 22-0409 Resolution approving the 2037 La Crosse Regional Airport Master Plan

Summary:

This letter approves the 2037 La Crosse Regional Airport Master Plan.

Previous Action:

The Common Council approved Resolution 16-0415 petitioning the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for certain state and Federal aid at the La Crosse Regional Airport. One of the projects included in this petition was an Airport Master Plan. Resolution 15-0925 approved the 2016-2020 City of La Crosse Capital Improvement Plan which included funding for the La Crosse Regional Airport Master Plan in 2019. The Federal Aviation Administration offered the La Crosse Regional Airport an Airport Improvement Program grant in 2017. To accommodate this change, the Common Council approved moving this project and the associated funding to 2017 by Resolution 17-0095. Local funding for this project comes from airport Passenger Facility Charges; the use of which was approved by Common Council Resolution 16-0751.

Background:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) awarded Airport Improvement Program Grant 3-55-0030-041-2017 to the La Crosse Regional Airport to conduct an airport master plan study on September 19, 2017. Mead and Hunt was selected in coordination with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation – Bureau of Aeronautics and began this planning project in October of 2017. The attached Airport Master Plan was developed over the next two years with the chapters of the master plan submitted to the FAA for review in April of 2020 and the Airport Layout Plan submitted to the FAA for review in June of 2021. FAA comments were addressed in the fall of 2021 and winter of 2021-2022.



Financial Implications:

The approval of this plan commits no additional funding, although it provides guidance on potential future expenditures.

Stakeholder Process:

The planning process for this Airport Master Plan included a General Aviation Users Working Group, a Strategic Plan Advisory Group, as well as seven focus groups composed of key stakeholders to provide input on the plan. These were in addition to the Aviation Board. The General Aviation Users Working Group and Strategic Plan Advisory Group each met three to five times to provide input on the development of the plan. The seven focus groups were held with each of the following stakeholder groups: airport administrative staff, airport operations and maintenance staff, terminal and landside tenants, chamber of commerce and economic development officials, local government planners, small general aviation users, and business aviation users. Airport staff were included in the working groups and some of the focus groups. In addition, the Aviation Board was presented with the progress and an opportunity for input on the Airport Master Plan four times prior to this resolution.

Alternatives:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

It is the recommendation of staff to approve the 2037 La Crosse Regional Airport Master Plan.

Attachments:

2037 La Crosse Regional Airport Master Plan
La Crosse Regional Airport Layout Plan

