

## AVIATION BOARD BACKGROUND LETTER

**Aviation Board Meeting Date:** January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**To:** Chair Dickinson and Aviation Board Members

**From:** Ian Turner, Director of the La Crosse Regional Airport

**Subject:** Bicycle Pedestrian Plan Update – Airport Access Public Comment

**Summary:** The informational gathering phase of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan Update includes a comment from an anonymous member of the community to install a gate between Breezy Point Road and the airport terminal loop to allow pedestrians and bicyclists who live and work nearby to access the airport.

**Pros:**

1. Increases the ability of the airport to influence the “final mile” of transportation. The goal here is helping an individual transit from the airport to their final destination.
2. Supports the City of La Crosse bicycle network, outlined in the City of La Crosse 2040 Comprehensive Plan.
3. The airport building is already served by the bicycle lane along Airport Road

**Cons:**

1. Installation of any infrastructure at the end of Breezy Point Road, including any path to the airport terminal, will cost additional funds that are not identified. This includes maintenance of any infrastructure located on airport property.
2. No pedestrian infrastructure exists within the airport industrial park and this installation would create a pedestrian island.
3. Allowing access through the fence in this location will encourage parking along Airport Road, which is already problematic.
4. Creating a path through the airport parking lot increases lost revenue chances from drivers exiting the parking lot incorrectly.
5. The proposed access promotes long-term street parking contradicting efforts of the airport to be a good neighbor. Additionally, it will drive down airport parking revenue.
6. Bicycle racks are present at the south end of the terminal building, which is more accessible from the existing bicycle lane on Airport Road.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommend aviation board members reach out to the planning department with individual comments to not include this proposed comment in the final Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan.

