Yours Truly

Managing Public Relations in Development of an Airport Project

Ty Sander, P.E. Crawford, Murphy and Tilly Inc.

THE Conference

February 25, 2020







- 1977 City purchased Airport
 - Runway 18-36 is 2,400' x 60' asphalt
- 1979 Runway 18-36 extended to 3,000'
- 1991 Completed 3,800' x 75' RW 11-29 & taxiway
- 1992 Rebuilt RW 18-36 to 4,014' x 75' concrete
- 2000 Master Plan adopted by Council
- Environmental Assessment
- 2011 Business Plan adopted by Council
- 2012 ALP updated RW 18-36 to 5,500'
- 2017- Runway 18-36 extended to 5,501' x 100' grooved concrete
- 1977- 2018 Airport property expanded from 60 acres to 486 acres



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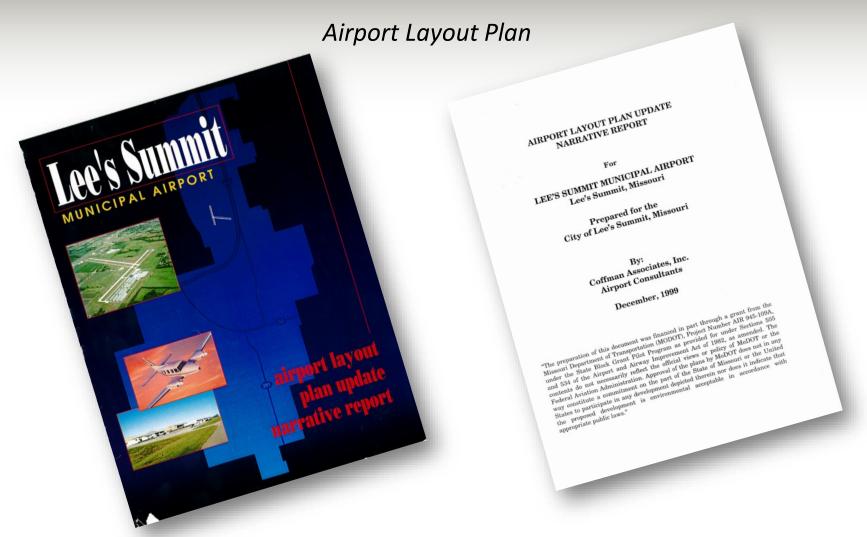








Airport Planning





Airport Planning

Airport Layout Plan

Master Plan prepared by Coffman & Associates in 1996 & 1999 Adopted by City Council in 2000 (Airport Layout Plan updated in 2012)

Approved by FAA and MoDOT for funding purposes Provides guidance on Airport development activities for the next 20 years

- Runway 18-36 to 5,500'; Runway 11-29 to 4,000'
- Add precision approach for runway 36
- Increase gross weight to 60,000 lbs.
- Change airport category from B-II to C-II
- Lays out plans for development of eastside terminal area
- Provides for ultimate land acquisition



Outside Forces

- Richards-Gebaur had closed
- Reliever capacity in the Kansas City metro area an identified need by FAA/MoDOT
- LXT expansion identified as key FAA/MoDOT priority
- Federal and state funding available



Local Political Climate

- No true political champion, but there was active opposition
- Council and community concerns about the Airport being financially sustainable
- Perceived loss of local control by accepting Federal funds
- Misconceptions about what Airport expansion meant to quality of life



Struggle to Move Forward

2000-2004

FAA/MoDOT

- Generous grant funding offers
- Environmental Assessment was funded and completed
- Land Acquisition program

Local Level

- Skepticism and concerns about how to fund local match
- Potential negative impact to the community (quality of life)
- Opposition growing and had momentum
- Contentious City Council Meetings



CITY OF LEE'S SUMMIT, MISSOURI

FINAL DRAFT REPORT

FOR THE

LEE'S SUMMIT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT STUDY AND BENEFIT/ COST ANALYSIS

PHASE I- FAA BENEFIT/ COST ANYLSYS

AIRPORT SITE SELECTION INVESTIGATION
EXISTING AND ULTIMATE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT COST ESTIMATES
AVIATION BENEFIT ANAYLSIS AND DEMAND FORECAST UPDATE
AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT BENEFIT/ COST COMPARISON

AUGUST 2001



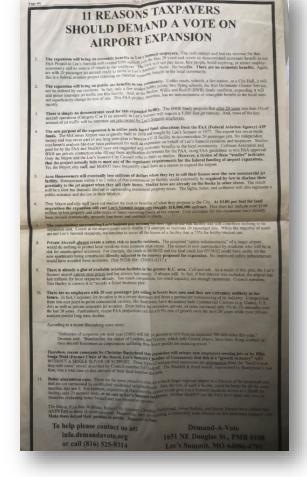
Airport Politics

2000 - 2004

Full page ads and letters to the editor that we

were reading...







Council Conclusions

- Overall, elected officials:
 - wanted to preserve options for the future
 - Acquisition of property to south
 - wanted to maintain safe operating environment at Airport
 - still had significant concerns and questions regarding the costs and impacts of expansion

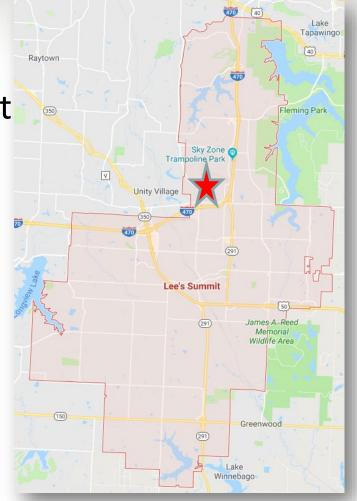


Where Do We Go From Here?



City Initiated Several Programs

- Development pressure
 - Strong market in Lee's Summit
 - Good access to I-470
 - Industrial Park
 - Good Infrastructure
 - High quality of life
- Land acquisition to preserve options







Airport issue flies back to forefront

By Matt Bird-Meyer The Journal Staff

The question of airport expansion is back and the Lee's Summit City Council will face the issue on Dec. 5, three years sooner than planned.

The council voted last December to table the issue of expanding the runways at the Lee's Summit Municipal Airport until 2005. This decision followed a lengthy discussion of the completed cost/benefit analysis the city commissioned. The analysis looked at the cost and benefits of three issues: Addressing existing deficiencies, expanding the runways and closing the airport and relocating to a different site.

On May 16, 2002 the council agreed to approve the study and to send it off to the FAA for Brian Weiler, administrator of aviation with its seal of approval. At the same time, the council MoDOT. "They should not move on the grant also expressed interest in a \$5.5 %." also expressed interest in a \$5.8 million grant



administered by the Missouri Department of Transportation, a grant designated for airport expansion.

The council will make a formal decision on accepting or denying the grant on Dec. 5.

"This is (the council's) first big decision," said unless it is their intent to expand the airport."

The grant amends a previous grant application for \$150,000 to reimburse the city for installing the new automated weather observation system a the airport. According to the amendment, th additional funds are to be used for land acquisition necessary to expand the municipal airport.

The issue was to appear on Thursday's counagenda but was deferred to the Dec. 5 agenda

■ See AIRPORT on page 3



City Initiated Several Programs

- RFP for consultant selection
- 30% Master Plan design and cost estimates
 - Quantify safety and standards deficiencies outside of expansion
 - Validate costs, sequencing and schedule for expansion
 - 9 month process
 - 30% plans, design report, cost estimates
 - Educate stakeholders



City Initiated Several Programs

- Council accepts costs of the program as valid
- Votes to continue land acquisition to preserve expansion options
- Supports development of projects for standards related deficiencies
- The opposition continues



Opponents Initiated Petition

2002-2006

PAC drafts amendment for petition

By Matt Bird-Meyer The Journal Staff

The Community 1st political action committee submitted its petition language to the Lee's Summit city clerk on July 23, marking the start of a citywide drive to amend the City Charter.

The purpose of the amendment is to allow citizen involvement in any future action regarding the expansion of the Lee's Summit Municipal Airport. The petitioners' committee included five individuals whose signatures appear on the document. The document was notarized by Joe Spallo, District 3 councilmember and outspoken opponent to airport expansion.

The language of the petition was drafted by James Freeman, District 4 councilmember, said Mayor Karen Messerli. Freeman also has expressed concerns regarding airport expansion.

The five committee members who

signed the petition include Ned Luce, Fred Mayfield, Sue Evans, Jerry Haney and Dana Johnston.

Since 1998, the City Council has lobbied and received funds to expand the primary runway at the airport to 5,500 feet. The purpose of the expansion is to accommodate more business-class jet traffic.

The petition seeks to amend section 14.9 of the City Charter, the section that deals with "Public improvements and special assessments." This section of the

charter prevents citizens from embarking on voting initiatives to affect capital projects or budget matters.

The language included on the petition requires a public vote for any work to move forward at the airport, including land acquisition, construction, increase in length, width and capacity of the runways and taxiways, any change in FAA classifi-

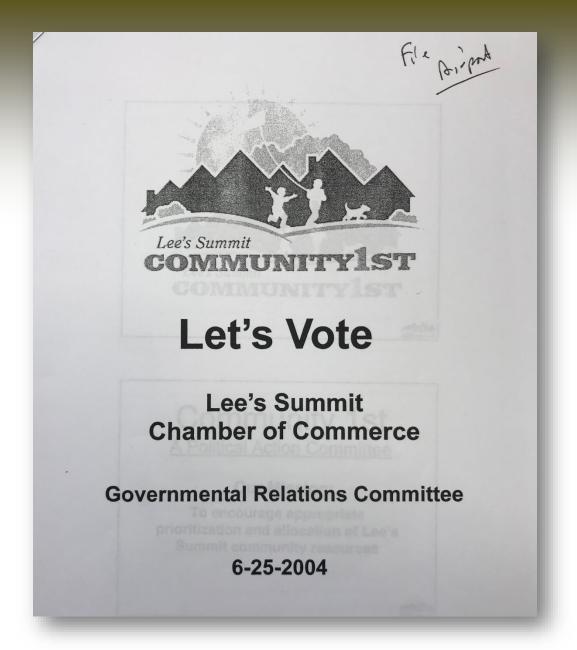
■ See PAC on page 4



Opponents Initiated Petition

- Petition proposing an amendment to the City's Charter to require a public vote for airport improvements including:
 - Any land acquisition or construction
 - Increase in length, width or rated weight capacity of any runway or taxiway
 - Any change in the FAA reference code above B-II
 - Addition of any ILS
 - Extremely narrow approval language







Anti-Airport Themes from Charter Amendment Proponents

Safety

- "Don't more planes equate to more accidents?"

Money

- "How much property and tax revenue is LS giving up to expand the airport?"

Local Control

- "Do the Lee's Summit leaders really know how much control the City will have after the FAA and MoDOT provide most of the money for planning, land acquisition, and construction for airport expansion?"



FRIENDS OF LEE'S SUMMIT

John C. Graham, Jr. Chairman

DO THE RESPONSIBLE THING!

Bob Guntert Treasurer **VOTE NO**

Airport Charter Amendment February 8, 2005

Vincent Seif Secretary

Dear Friends.

Members

Mark Anderson Stan Atkinson

Steve Begshaw

Nancy Bruns Carl Chinnery

Ted Dawson Kay Ford

JoAnne Gabbert Dave Gale

Gene Gamber Mary Alice Gensor

Bob Glaser

Jane Henley Chet Smith

Mary Stacy Ken Stremming

Al Tranchilla Sonja Wald

Jeanne Willerth Larry Young We citizens of Lee's Summit face a critical issue and we need your help.

On February 8, 2005 Lee's Summit residents are being forced to vote on an irresponsible amendment to our charter. This shortsighted proposal is being promoted by a small number of people in one corner of our community who want to effectively shut down our airport. They have no concern for the long-term negative impact it could have on our community as a whole. Therefore, we are doing the only responsible thing and opposing the amendment because it would:

- 1 Weaken our city charter and representative form of government.
- 2 Set a dangerous precedent where this or another narrow, single-issue group from an elite corner of the community would try to impose their will on all of us, including our schools, roads, parks, sewers, etc.
- 3 Discourage businesses from locating in and bringing jobs to Lee's Summit.
- 4 Seriously damage any hopes of enhancing the safety and long-term viability of Lee's Summit Municipal Airport, and
- 5 Stop the city from receiving millions of dollars in federal funds to improve the airport.

Between now and February 8, Friends of Lee's Summit will be waging an all out campaign to educate the public and defeat this amendment. We cannot let one small group highjack our city's charter, and our community's future, for their own purposes.

As you can well imagine, this will be a challenging task. Please take time to inform yourself about this issue and join us as we work to protect and enhance the quality of our community. I invite you to read the comments of your friends and neighbors on the reverse side and to volunteer in our campaign.

Thank you,

John C. Graham, Jr.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT SEE BACK FOR DETAILS

Friends of Lee's Summit 4210 NW Lake Drive, Lee's Summit, MO 64064
Paid for by Friends of Lee's Summit, Bob Guntert, Treasurer.



Charter Amendment Opponents (Pro-Airport)

- Weaken city charter and representative form of government
- Set a dangerous precedent for single issue groups
- Discourage businesses from bringing jobs to Lee's Summit
- Stop additional safety improvements at the airport
- Stop the City from receiving millions of dollars in federal funds



Improving our airport is vital



During the city council's work session on Sept. 10, I would ask that each of our elected officials to carefully examine the transportation components of Lee's Summit 360 and the Airport Business Plan.

If the city council chooses not to move forward on expert recommendations for airport improvements, the city of Lee's Summit surely will slip from being a top-tier community in the years ahead.

One of the things I have always found most impressive about our city council is its visionary approach, looking far ahead at the needs of the city and planning for the future. Our city council cannot let the airport issue remain in limbo for another 10 years, and they should not pass this issue on to the public. Our city council should take a stand now for the betterment of the city's future.

The citizens deserve for

at least one of their city council members to step up to a leadership role regarding this issue and dare to say, "Improving and embracing our airport is what's best for our city now and well into the future."

To reach the top echelon of vibrant, economically thriving cities, we must not only have the best school system, the best parks system, the best cultural arts opportunities, the best historic downtown district, the best infrastructure. the best city government, the best balance of commercial and retail businesses, the best programs for all ages, but we also must have a top-notch municipal airport (all of the best cities do) — an airport that contributes to helping grow all of these other vital components of our city. And an improved Lee's Summit Municipal Airport will bring in more business, more dollars and more opportunities.

In the 16 years I have lived in Lee's Summit, I have heard and listened to all sides when it comes to the airport. In the beginning, and not fully understanding the economic impact of a municipal airport, I thought, "I don't use the airport; some residents don't even know we have an airport;

why are we spending time debating the airport?"

However, during the past few years, I have had the privilege of seeing first-hand how general aviation airports in cities around the U.S. have impacted those communities and regions in very positive ways — from the close availability of air medical emergency services and traffic helicopters to aircraft serving large manufacturing businesses and pilots transporting patients and organ donations.

In addition, a few years ago, the issue of amending our city charter (our constitution) was brought to the forefront. From these discussions, the importance of a first-class city having a local airport were made even clearer to me; and more importantly, the fact that airport improvements should not be brought before voters was even more resounding.

Voters put their faith and trust in the city council members they elect; residents expect their representatives to make the tough, complicated decisions on their behalf. Most citizens of Lee's Summit are never going to see all of the important documents that pass before the eyes of the city council members. Do you think the majority of citizens

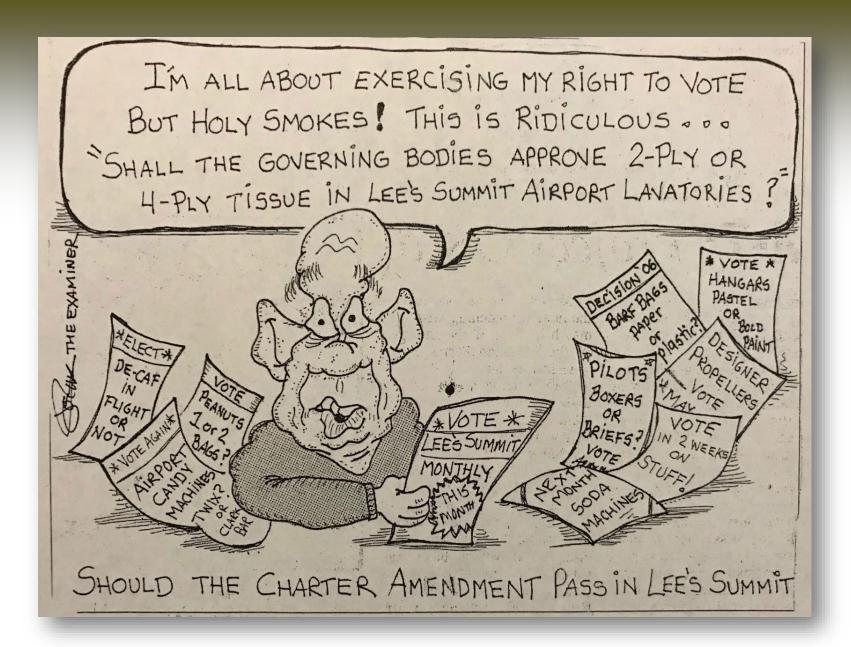
in Lee's Summit have read the Airport Business Plan? It's doubtful.

Most citizens know they do not possess the facts and knowledge to which the city council has been privy — which is the reason constituents expect their representatives to make informed decisions based on the best interests of the community (not on what they think might give them their best re-election chances).

When it comes to airport improvements and what's right for this city, our city council needs to take a stand and make an informed decision to move forward in the best interest of the voters and the community as a whole.

Trisha Drape has been a Downtown Lee's Summit resident for 16 years and has worked in Lee's Summit for more than eight years. Drape is the director of communications for the AEA, which moved its headquarters to Lee's Summit last year to be near the Lee's Summit Municipal Airport. She also is editor of Avionics News magazine. To respond to today's commentary, call 816-282-7001 or e-mail editor@lsjournal.com.







Charter Amendment Voted Down

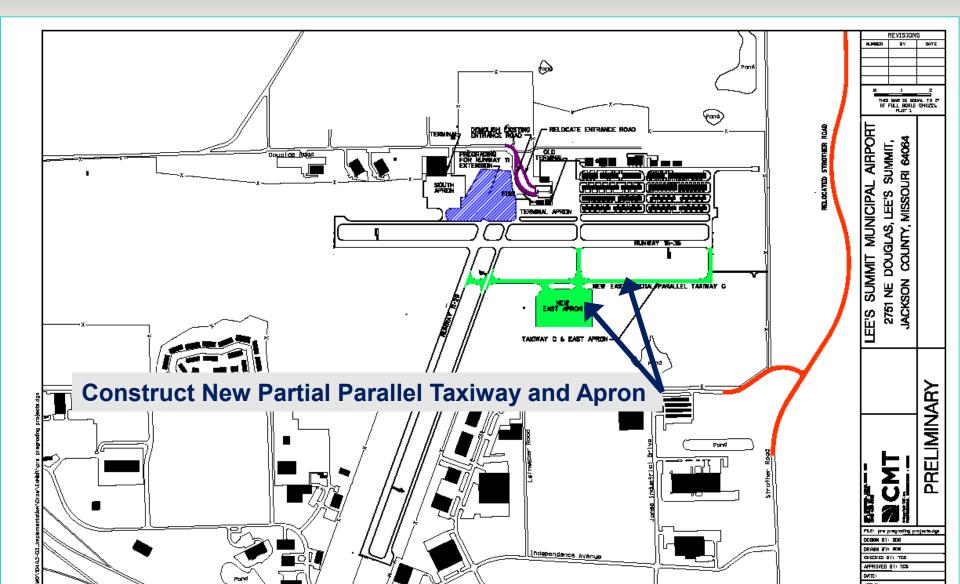
Vote on charter amendment took place on Feb. 8, 2005. Outcome was to not change the charter which would requiring a vote on all airport improvements.

Yes: 4,674 44%

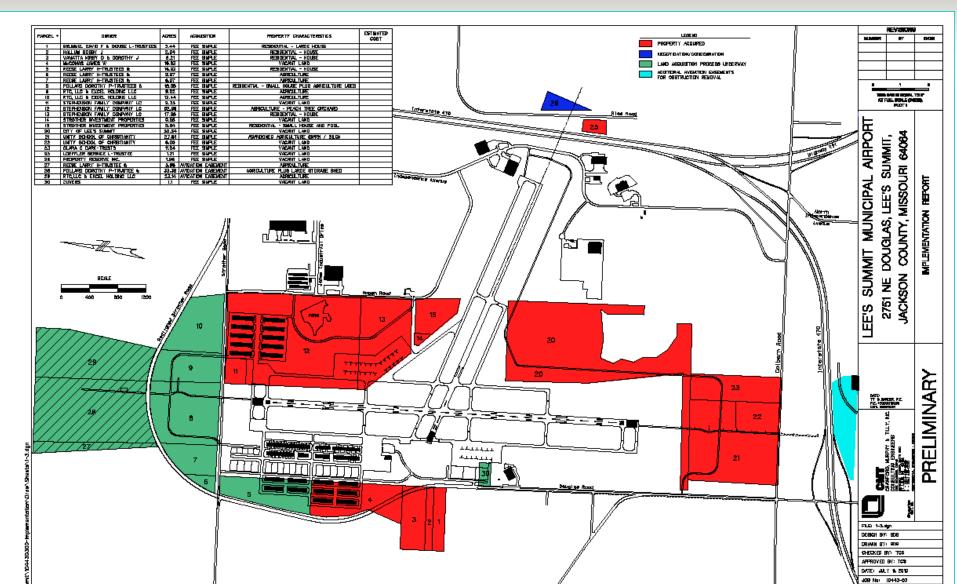
✓ No: 5,905 56%



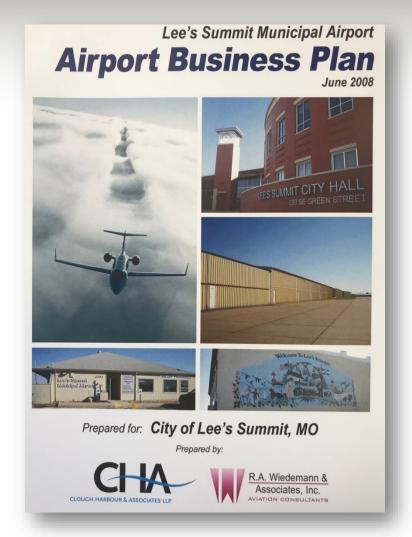
Safety & Standards Program



Land Acquisition Program



Establish Airport Economic Viability





Establish Airport Economic Viability

Airport Business Plan

Business Plan prepared by Clough Harbour &

Associates (CHA)

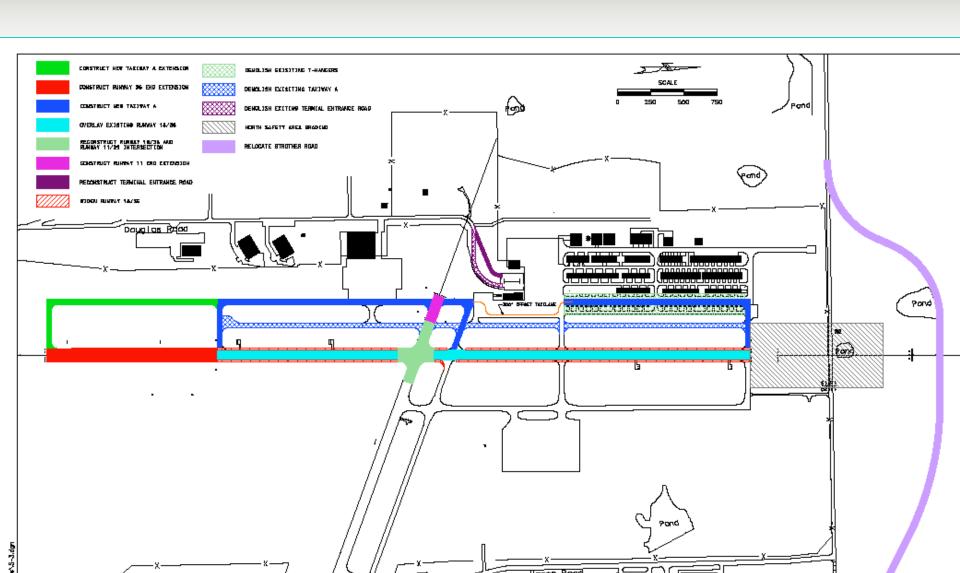
Adopted by City Council in 2011

Provides financial guidance on Airport development

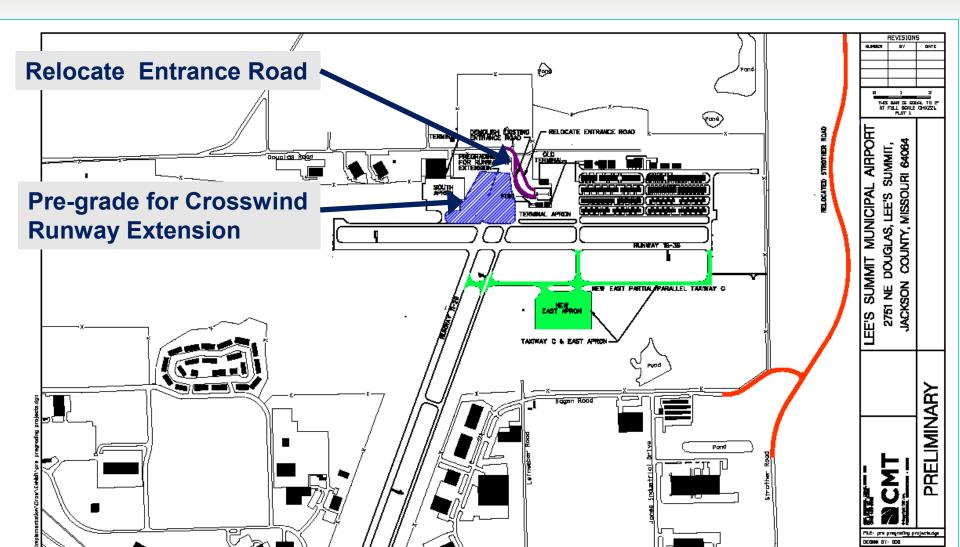
- Re-sequence Airport Capital Improvement Plan project timelines to advance projects related to corporate aircraft traffic
- Increase revenues
- Attract corporate tenants
- Improve amenities
- Improve marketing and branding efforts



Funding Challenges

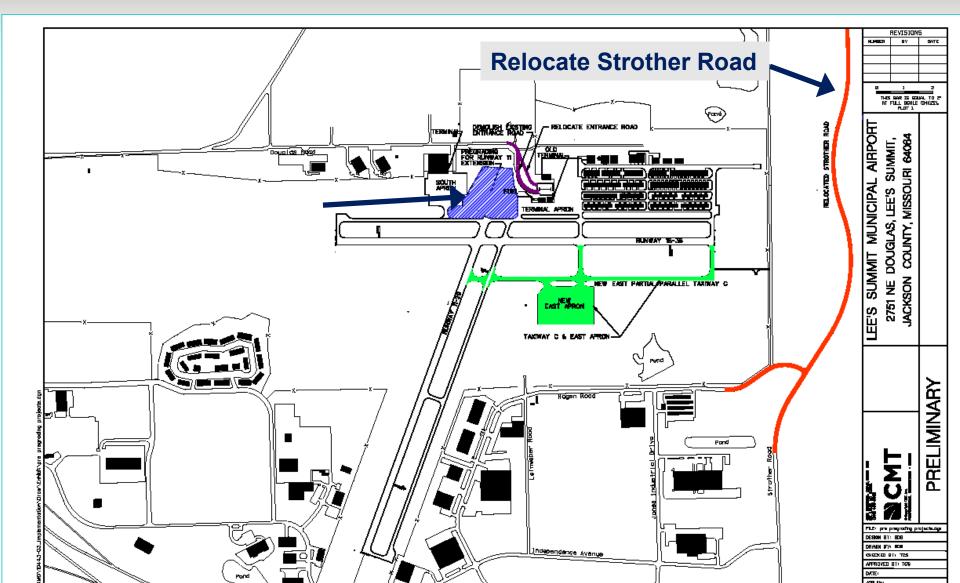


Runway Pregrading/Enabling Projects



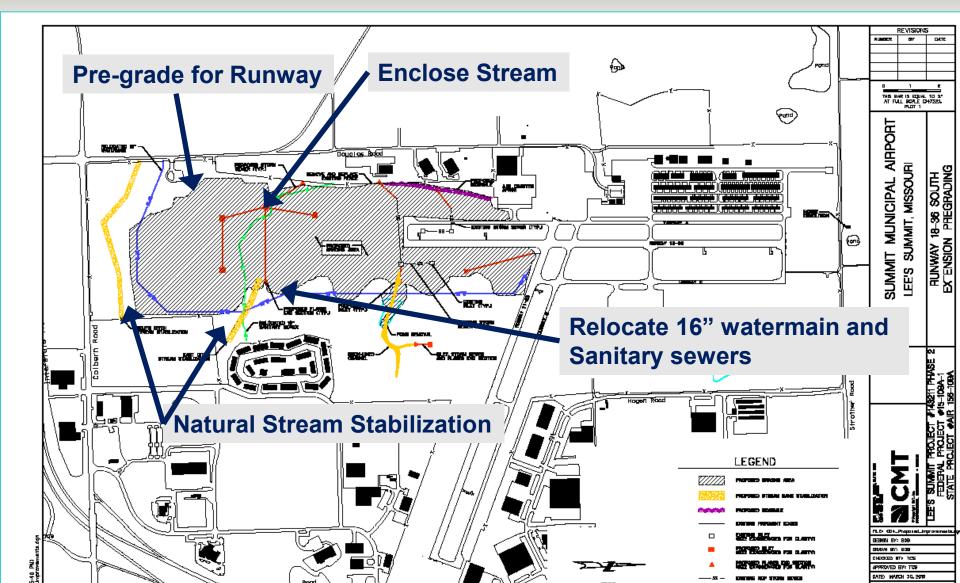
Strother Road Relocation

2014-2015



Runway 18 Pregrading

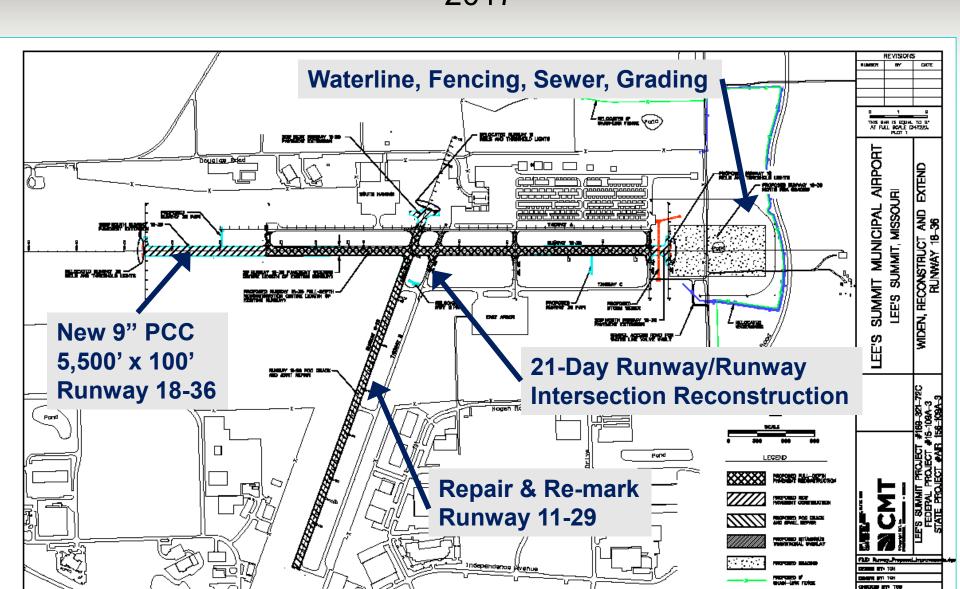
2015-2016



Runway 18 Pre-grading



Runway 18-36 Expansion



Runway 18-36 Expansion





Ribbon Cutting Ceremony





Taxiway A Relocation





Conclusions and Take-aways

- Environment opposition took place was different than it is today
- Taking advantage of friendly environment today with proactive approach to outreach/interaction with community
- Important for Airport to be active member of community



Changing Political Climate

- Business community supports Business Plan and Airport expansion
- Community views Airport as a driver of economic opportunity and development



Thank You







Questions





Questions?





Business Plan Opposition



Business Plan Support

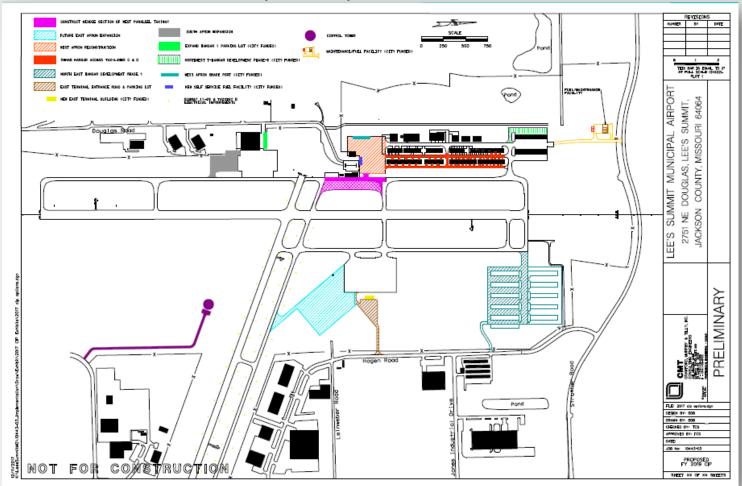


Resolution Adopting Business Plan



Airport Planning and CIP

Capital Improvement Plan





Airport CIP Overview

- The Airport receives capital funding from:
 - Federal Aviation Administration
 - State of Missouri MoDOT Aviation Division
 - For capital improvements and some maintenance
- Funds come from aviation user fees
 - Approx. \$.30 federal and state aviation fuel taxes per gallon
 - Fees/taxes on commercial airline tickets
- Construction of aircraft hangars, administration facilities and fuel farms are not eligible for federal or state funding
 - Local funding required for vertical construction



- What we were hearing...
 - "Make money run it in the black! But don't get bigger"
 - "Make money but don't sell jet fuel"
 - "Build the E/W runway/Don't build it"
 - "Shut it down"
 - "Move it outside the city"



- Headlines we were seeing...
 - "Airport issue flies back to forefront"
 - "Airport must prove 'community worth'"
 - "Mayor plans to take stronger role in Lee's Summit airport expansion"
 - "Lee's Summit officials debate plan to expand financially strapped airport"
 - "Expand the runway, ease the burden"
 - "It's time to put the airport issue to rest"



As a community, what we were doing was...

Nothing

(1993 - 2011)



As a community, what we were doing was...
 Nothing from 1993 – 2011

- 1992 Rebuilt RW 18-36 to 4,014' x 75' concrete
 - 2000 Master Plan adopted by Council
- 2005 Built 80' x 80' aircraft maintenance facility
 - 2009 Added modular office space
 - 2011 Business Plan adopted by Council



- How we got the Airport going again back to the business plan
- Provides financial guidance on Airport development
 - Re-sequence Airport Capital Improvement Plan project
 timelines to advance projects related to corporate aircraft
 traffic
 - Increase revenues
 - Attract corporate tenants
 - <u>Improve amenities</u>
 - Improve marketing and branding efforts



Airport Planning and CIP

Capital Improvement Plan

DRAFT - Proposed FY19 Airport CIP				1/17/2018													
Federal/State Project Participation	Activity Number	Acc't Unit	CIP Total Lifetime	Prior Years	Prior Year 17	Prior Year 18	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	OUT YEARS	TOTAL COST		TOTAL LOCAL	Locs	Notes
1 Land Acquisition of ALP Properties Phase 2	293211	32185750444	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 500		\$ 850						\$ 6,3	50 \$	31	3 5	Includes Morth acquirition (and MOT South Avigation Euroments)
2 Land Acquisition of ALP Properties Phase 3							\$ 320	\$ 1,425					\$ 1,7	45 \$		7 5	Avigation + Zuvers in 2019 and RTC in 2020
3 Earthwork for Runway 18-36 and West Parallel	143211	32185750444		\$ 8,317									\$ 8,3	17 \$	41	6 5	Wurk campleted. Waiting far Final Project clureaut
4 FAA Review and Testing for NavAid Relocation	327321	32185750444		\$ 557									\$ 5	57 \$	2	8 5	Work completed. Waiting for Final FAA accounting
** Airport Entrance Road Relocation	16932172	32185750444		\$ 848									\$ 8	18 \$	3	1 5	2 Includer \$93,413 in grants and \$31,457 in local funds - \$924,\$70
5 Construct Pavement for Runway 18-36	16932172	32185750444	\$11,085	\$ 2,040	\$ 6,560								\$ 8,60	00 \$	43	0 5	2 9/16/16 - Received autice of SBG for \$9.4M and AAA for \$.521M
5 Perimeter Fencing Phase II	16932172	32185750444		\$ 62	\$ 188								\$ 2	50 \$	1	3 5	2 9/16/16 - Received nutice of SBG for \$9.4M and AAA for \$.521M
5 Grade North Safety Area	16932172	32185750444		\$ 250	\$ 750								\$ 1,00	00 \$	5	0 5	2 9/16/16 - Received autice of SBG for \$9.4M and AAA for \$.521M
5 Extend Runway 18-36 Morth End	16932172	32185750444		\$ 307	\$ 928								\$ 1,2	35 \$	6	2 5	2 9/16/16 - Received nutice of SBG for \$9.4M ear AAA for \$.521M
6 Construct Pavement for Taxiway Alpha	17432172	32185750444	\$ 6,676	\$ 820	\$ 605	\$ 5,251							\$ 6,6	76 \$	33	4 5	2 11/2/17 - CC appraved SBG for \$6,234 & AAA for \$346
6 Extend North Parallel Taxiways	17432172	32185750444	\$ 701	\$ 152		\$ 549							\$ 7	01 \$:	5 5	2 11/2/17 - CC appraved SBG for \$6,234 & AAA for \$346
7 Update Airport Business and Master Plans	44232172	32185750444	\$ 800		\$ 400		\$ 150	\$ 150	NPE???				\$ 70	00 \$	7	0 10	2
8 Site Development - Northeast Side	17232172	32185750444	\$ 2,480			\$ 596	\$ 2,880						\$ 3,4	76 \$	34	8 10	Site work only, does not include hangers
3 Site Development - East Side	47732172	32185750444	\$ 2,120				\$ 510	\$ 2,143					\$ 2,6	53 \$	26	5 10	Site Work unly. Includer entrance road, term. parking, ring road, W4
Construct Middle Section of West Parallel Taxiwan Alpha	16832172	32185750444	\$ 626				\$ 155	\$ 1,190					\$ 1,3	45 \$		7 5	Haw includes dome of apress, terminal, and feel tanks.
11 Rehabilitate Hangar Taxilanes Charlie and Delta	44132172	32185750444	\$ 952					\$ 150	\$ 1,182				\$ 1,3	32 \$	13	3 10	z
West Apron Reconstruction	32832172	32185750444	\$ 3,000						V	\$ 600	\$1,093		\$ 1,63	3 \$	16	9 10	2
South Apron Expansion	47832172	32185750444	\$ 1,200						V /	\$ 240	\$ 400	\$ 869	\$ 1,50	9 \$	1	10	z
Rehabilitate Airfield Lighting Runway 11/29 and Taxiwan Brazo	44032172	32185750444	\$ 503								\$ 50	\$ 453	\$ 50	3 \$	5	0 10	2
15 Control Tower		32185750444									7	\$ 5,610	\$ 5,6	10 \$	50	1 10	z
Approach Lighting System (ALS) RW 18		32185750444										\$ 585	\$ 5	85 \$	5	9 10	2
SUBTOTAL				*****	****	****	****	****	****	\$ 840	****	\$7,517	\$ 55,68	5 \$	3,670	7.	4
Locally Funded Projects	Activity Number	Acc't Unit	CIP Total Lifetime	Prior Years	Prior Year 17	Prior Year 18	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	OUT YEARS	TOTAL COST		TOTAL LOCAL	Loca	l Notes
Construct Replacement T-Hangars (northwest	47632185	32185750444	\$ 3,000			\$2,200	\$ 525						\$ 2,7	25 \$	2,72	5 100	Bid December 1, 2017
B New Fuel Farm Facility	17832172	32185750444	\$ 1,631			\$ 325	\$ 1,555						\$ 1,88	30 \$	1,88	0 100	Council Agenda on 12/21
Mill and Overlay Hangar Taxilanes Charlie and							\$ 288						\$ 28	8 \$	28	3 100	2
New Airport Equipment Maintenance/Storage	17732172	32185750444	\$ 602				\$ 150	\$ 544					\$ 65	94 \$	65	4 100	2
E Expand Hangar 1 Parking Lot							\$ 100						\$ 10	00 \$	10	0 100	2
F New Terminal Building	17932172	32185750444	\$ 1,100					\$ 283	\$ 817				\$ 1,10	00 \$	1,10	0 100	2
G New Fuel Self Service Facility								\$ 450					\$ 4	50 \$	45	0 100	2
H West Apron Shade Ports	44332172	32185750444	\$ 965							\$ 500			\$ 50	00 \$	50	0 100	2
SUBTOTAL of LOCALLY FUNDED				\$ -	\$ -	\$2,525	\$ 2,618	\$ 1,277	\$ 817	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,73	37 \$	7,73	7 100	k
GRAND TOTAL				\$ 18,353	\$ 9,931	\$8,921	\$7,483	\$6,335	\$1,999	#1 240	\$1,543	\$ 7,517	\$ 63.43	22 4	11,41	3 18	v .
GIARD TOTAL				¥ 18,353	\$ 3,331	\$8,321	\$1,483	\$6,335	\$1,333	\$1,340	\$1,943	¥ 7,917	→ 63,47	-2 \$	11,41	3 18.	
Purple Text = Funded and under way	1													-			
Yellow Shading = Discuss with MoDOT																	
Red Text = New Projects in FY-19	ı													-			



We got past it -

- Outstanding support
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Economic Development Council
 - Friends of the Airport
- Funding
 - FAA
 - MoDOT
 - Local match from Transportation Tax
- Council Support



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Time for a Charter change



COMMENTARY

A Charter amendment is a big deal for Lee's

It's a big deal for two reasons. One, this would be the first Charter amendment in Lee's Summit history, and, two, this appears to be a surefire way to finally settle the issue of airport expansion.

Let the voters decide.

For those who haven't been following the issue, the Community 1st political action committee in Lee's Summit is gearing up to circulate a petition in order to amend the City Charter. The amendment would allow Lee's Summit voters the option of shutting down or moving forward the runway expansion project at the airport. Since it is a capital project, airport expansion is strictly a legislative issue according to the Charter and cannot be put before the voters.

James Freeman, District 4 councilmember, thinks a Charter amendment is a big deal. He should as a former member of the Charter Commission that spent many hours drafting the document. Freeman said the provision allowing amendments to the Charter was specifically put in place to allow the citizens of the city an action plan should they feel their elected officials are not being responsive.

"It was quite the fight," Freeman said of creating the amendment provision. "There was exten-

were steadfast in their support for an expansion, one that would accommodate more jet traffic. To serve as a constant reminder of this, I taped a copy of Resolution No. 98-07 on the wall near my desk. This resolution, ironically co-signed by Christine Treat, who is now Christine Bushyhead, former city attorney and now councilmember, specifically outlines the council's support for airport expansion in 1998.

The resolution served as clear instructions for the city administration and mayor to lobby the federal government for funds to expand the airport. The primary purpose of airport expansion is to enhance the economic development of the city, according to the resolution.

Although the political action committee continually asks for specific examples of how runway expansion would encourage economic development, the committee doesn't seem interested in seeking those answers. I say this out of pure frustration after a member of Community 1st accused me a writing "slanted" stories relating to airport expansion.

One thing I have learned in journalism is that a primary source will only respond negatively to a story if the facts are wrong or someone is misquoted. An opposition group will not be happy unless a story makes their case. In researching the airport issue, I sought out specific examples of how the airport has or has not served as an economic development tool.

There are numerous local companies that use and rely on the airport to enhance their business. Major Saver, Townsend Capital, Pavestone and Unitech are four major players that frequently use the airport to attend out-of-state meetings or transport materials and products.

How an expanded airport would or would not spark more local development is difficult to determine. The industrial park surrounding the airport is far from fully built-out, and Townsend Capital is about to hit full stride in attracting large users to size discussion on making the process workable. 'the Summit Technology Campus. Many other

ty and the airport's continual siphoning of operating money from the city's general fund.

The opposition to airport expansion also vehemently insists that closing the airport is the best thing to do because commercial development would mean new revenue instead of lost revenue. Another major complaint is the perceived notion that the city would lose local control of the airport the more federal grants it accepts.

I really don't know what that means as nobody has been able to explain it very well. The FAA is a regulatory body that imposes rules and regulations on all airports nationwide. The airport is currently owned by the city of Lee's Summit, which would continue to be its owner should the primary runway be extended.

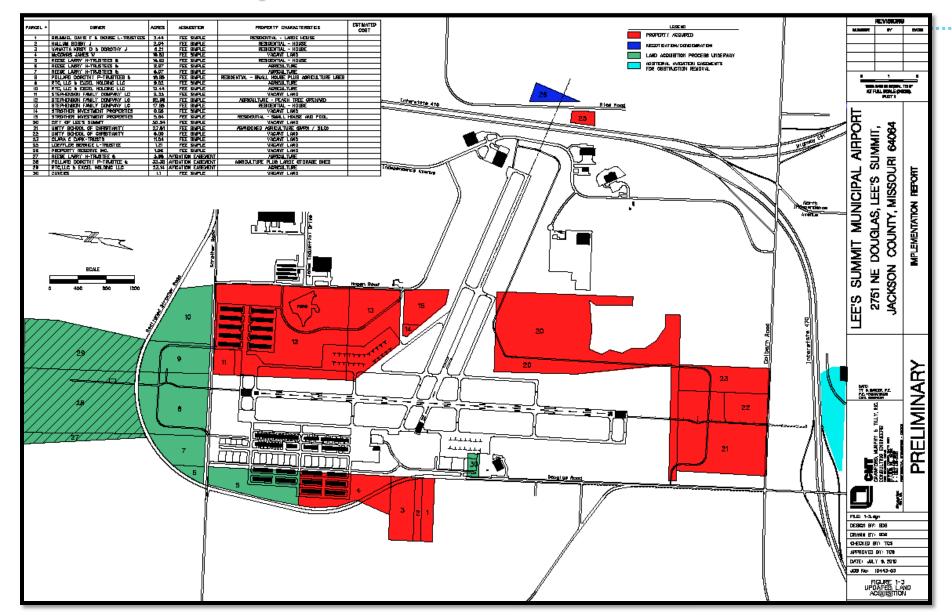
Should the FAA mandate all airport employees wear plaid and greet all visitors with ukulele music and flower necklaces, I would agree that local control is an issue. But as it stands, there is no way in Hades that a 737 will ever be allowed to land in Lee's Summit. Joe Pestka, administrator of aviation for the Missouri Department of Transportation, said it is not likely that commercial sized aircraft would ever land in Lee's Summit.

First of all, under the proposed expansion, the runway length and load capacity would still not be adequate. Second, Lee's Summit has a general aviation airport that serves as a reliever. That means Lee's Summit helps separate general aviation traffic from commercial airports.

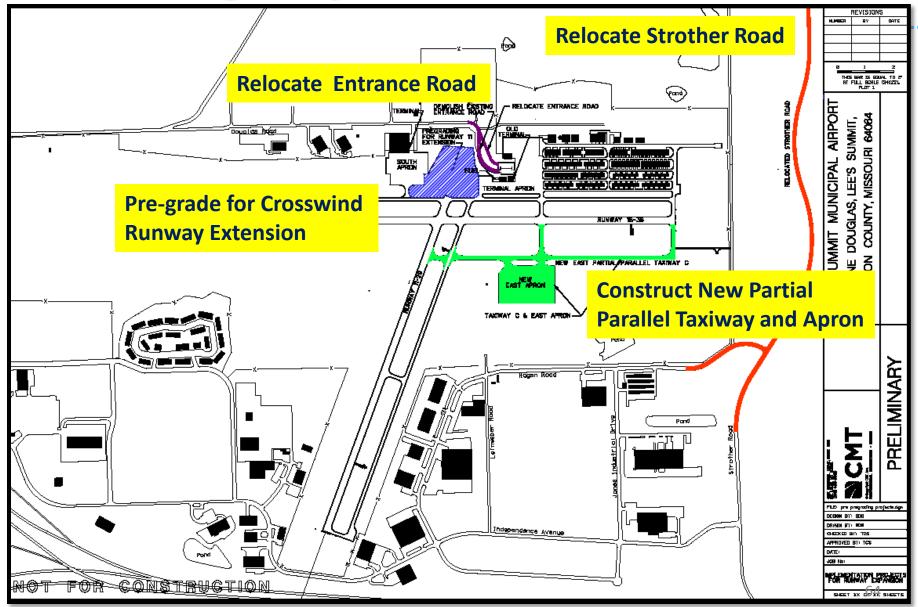
The city would certainly put the kibosh on that anyway by closing the airport and returning all grant money. And if voters are allowed a say on the issue, there's no way Lee's Summit would allow a 737 to land.

So, as the petition circulates, sign it. This is the democratic process at work.

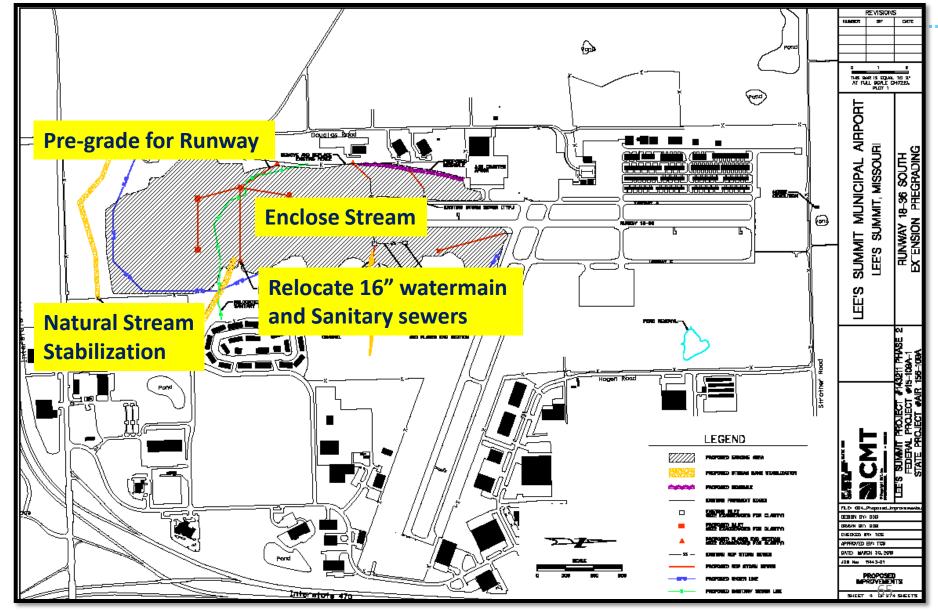
Land Acquisition



Enabling Projects



Runway Pre-Grading



Stream Stabilization/Enclosure







Runway Pre-Grading









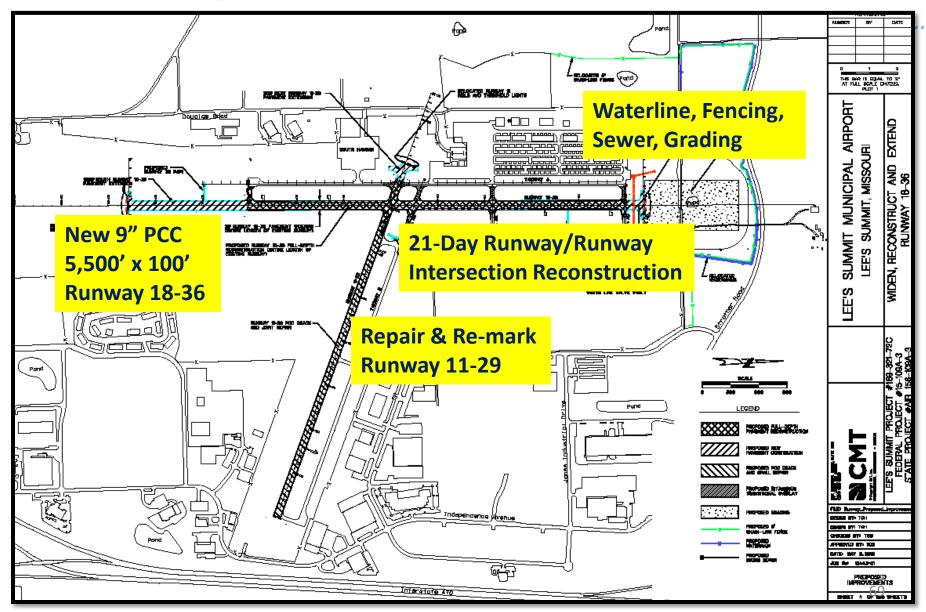
Runway Pre-Grading







Runway Construction



Runway Intersection Construction









Runway Intersection Construction









Runway 18-36 Opening

