

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BRIEFING PAPER

Topic: Airport FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Presented by: Amanda Keil, Ben Miller, Pat O'Connell

Date: 7/30/2024

For Information

For Discussion/Board Direction

Consent to
Place on Business/
Hearing Agenda

Issue: The Jefferson County Grants Management Team (GMT) and Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (RMMA) are seeking support to apply for a Hazard Mitigation Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the amount of \$5,953,821 for a project totaling \$7,938,427 to mitigate the documented, ongoing failure of the reinforced soil slope (RSS) located at the northeast corner of Runway Safety Area 12L/30R, adjacent to the intersection of CO-128 and Interlocken Parkway.

Background: The identified slope for which we are seeking funds is a critical piece of infrastructure identified as a "High" priority in the Jefferson County multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021). Data collected from a series of inclinometers have indicated there is continuing slope movement at the RSS that poses risks to both automobile and air travel in the region. The RSS in question was constructed and reinforced in 2014 to contain the Runway Protection Zone and is 65 feet high at its tallest point.

The RSS, which provides a crucial safety function, began to fail in 2015, within one year of the 2014 construction. Since these early indicators of failure, the slope has been monitored with a series of inclinometers, while RMMA staff have worked towards an alternative solution. While the engineering firm which designed the RSS provided a financial settlement, funds available have not been sufficient to install a permanent solution.

The solution for which funding is now being sought is permanent and considered to be the most durable, efficacious, and cost-effective mitigation method available. This solution includes three components:

- 1) A series of 50-64 reinforced concrete drilled shafts, with a diameter of 4.5' and ranging from 60-80' in depth, placed along the toe of the existing slope.
- 2) The shafts will be secured with tieback anchors 12" in diameter, with lengths from 125-165'.
- 3) A cast-in-place, reinforced concrete cap will connect the drilled shafts.

Discussion: The Hazard Mitigation Grant/Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program is provided by FEMA as a part of the Major Disaster Declaration as the result of several storms, flooding, and tornadoes that occurred on June 8, 2023. Jefferson County is one of 14 Colorado counties eligible to apply for this opportunity. Our application will be packaged and submitted to FEMA by the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and

Emergency Management by August 23, 2024.

The required local match is 25% (\$1,984,606) which will be paid for directly with available fund balance in the Airport Fund.

The State of Colorado has made funding available to cover half of the 25% match requirement, however, accepting this amount of additional state revenue will likely adversely impact the RMMA's enterprise status with respect to TABOR revenue limitations.

Fiscal Impact: yes no

- Year of impact: FY 2025, FY 2026, FY 2027
- TABOR impact: None
- Existing grant or project: Yes, attempts to address this failing slope have occurred over the past decade.
- New grant or project: Yes, this is a new grant that is available due to FEMA Major Disaster Declaration in 2023.
- Requested in adopted budget: No.
- Ongoing or one-time: One-time.
- General Fund impact: No.
- Staffing impact: N/A.
- ARPA impact: N/A.
- Match requirements: 25% of the award, up to \$1,984,606 from the Airport Fund.
- Mandate/Contractual obligation: No.

Revenue Limits Impact: yes no

The federal share for this grant will be up to \$5,953,821 and is not subject to TABOR revenue limits.

SPA Review: Support with no concerns. Dan Conway, 7/23/24.

County Attorney Review: Anthony Chambers, 7/22/24.

Facilities Review: No fiscal impact. Mark Danner, 7/22/24.

BIT Review: No fiscal impact. Andy Corbett, 7/22/24.

Fleet Review: No fiscal impact. Janice Mayer, 7/22/24.

Human Resources Review (new FTE only): N/A

Recommendations: That the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) direct the Grants Management Team and Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport to apply for the Hazard Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$5,953,821, and to include supplemental appropriation to amend the 2024 budget at the next available hearing. If awarded, the BCC directs staff to bring a resolution authorizing the Chair to sign the Grant Award

Originator: Amanda Keil, Strategy Innovation & Finance / Grants Management Team, 303-271-8579

Contacts for Additional Information:

Ben Miller, Airport Planning & Development Administrator, 303-271-4854

Pat O'Connell, Engineering Geologist, 303-271-8707

Abel Montoya, Development and Transportation Director, 303-271-8578

Stephanie Corbo, Chief Financial Officer, 303-271-8542

Mary O'Neil, Director of Grants and Procurement, 303-271-8570

Andrea Niedziela, Federal Grants Manager, 303-271-8574