

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BRIEFING PAPER**

**Topic: Taxiway O & D Construction & Reconstruction Phase One, and Grants**

**Presented by: Erick Dahl, Airport Director**

**Date: 7/30/2024**

- For Information                       For Discussion/Board Direction                       Consent to Place on Business/Hearing Agenda

**Issue:**

- 1) An update on the construction of a new taxiway (Taxiway O) across Simms Street into the southside aeronautical land, and Taxiway D to maintain acceptable pavement condition. The new Taxiway O will intersect with Taxiway D.
- 2) Application for two different grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to support this project.
- 3) Contract for the construction of Taxiway O and reconstruction of Taxiway D.

**Background:** The Airport has approximately 135 acres of aeronautical land located on the south side of the airfield and on the west side of “old” Simms Street. As part of the Verve Innovation Park development, Simms Street will be relocated outside of the aeronautical area this year (construction is currently underway).

The 2011 Airport Master Plan identified future aeronautical development on the southside of the airfield, and a new taxiway is needed to provide access to this property. The new Taxiway (Taxiway O) will connect from existing Taxiway D into the southside aeronautical property. Taxiway D is in need of a complete reconstruction to maintain acceptable pavement conditions and safety for airport users.

During the design phase, an environmental study was conducted as required by the FAA. Projects that are limited in scope and not expected to cause significant impacts, such as Taxiway O, conduct a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX). The CATEX is a screening process that determines whether that project requires a more detailed environmental assessment. The CATEX for Taxiway O was conducted by an outside engineering firm, Woolpert. During the completion of that CATEX, Woolpert unintentionally omitted a water resource report. The airport was made aware of this error in June 2024 while in the process of responding to an open records request. Immediate steps were taken to correct the error, including notification to the FAA.

The Airport expects to receive the complete water resource report from Woolpert the week of July 22<sup>nd</sup> and will work with the FAA to revise the CATEX accordingly.

**Discussion:**

The Airport originally briefed this Taxiway O & D Construction and Reconstruction Phase One project in December of 2023. The project was set in motion and bids for this project have been received.

The Airport received a Colorado Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division (CDOT) grant and Federal grants to reimburse the Airport for the design of this project. The Airport has been selected to receive two additional separate grants from the FAA for this project, as well as a third grant from the CDOT.

If the Airport receives the grant, the grant agreements will need to be signed by the Chair of the BCC and the Airport's budget will need to be supplemented. If the grants are not approved, then 1) the Airport will incur 100% of the expenses, or 2) the project will be postponed to an unknown year and the Airport may have to reimburse the FAA for the grant money received for the design portion of the project (\$636,584). The FAA is looking to expedite this process on their end, as they need to officially award the grants by mid-August 2024.

The construction contract for the work on Taxiway O and D, once awarded and approved as to form by the County Attorney's Office, will need to be signed by the Chair of the BCC.

House Bill 24-1235 does not apply to the Taxiway O & D Construction and Reconstruction project as it originates within the State of Colorado project tracking system on May 9, 2023, updated March 9, 2024, whereas House Bill 24-1235 took effect May 17, 2024.

**Fiscal Impact:** The total estimated cost of this new 2024 project is approximately \$9,800,000. The two new Federal grants will reimburse up to 90% of the project, with a maximum amount of \$8,820,000.00. The CDOT grant will reimburse a maximum of \$250,000, which leaves the Airport responsible for approximately \$730,000 of the total expenses. This project and the grant revenue are included in the adopted budget for 2024.

- Year of impact: 2024
- TABOR impact: No, the Airport is an Enterprise Fund and revenue to the Airport does not impact the County's TABOR revenue.
- Existing grant or project: No
- New grant or project: Yes
- Requested in adopted budget: Yes
- Ongoing or one-time: One-time
- General Fund impact: No
- Staffing impact: No
- ARPA impact: No
- Match requirements: Yes, the Airport is responsible for an approximate 7.5% in the expected amount of \$730,000.
- Mandate/Contractual obligation: N/A

**Revenue Limits Impact:**  yes  no

**SPA Review:** Support with no concerns

**County Attorney Review:** Anthony Chambers, 07/24/2024

**Facilities Review:** N/A

**BIT Review:** N/A

**Fleet Review:** N/A

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

**Recommendations:** Staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners direct staff to bring a resolution authorizing the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners to sign FAA and CDOT grant agreements and the construction contract for Taxiway O and D to a future hearing.

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