



**MEETING OF MAY 16, 2023**

**TO:** Mayor Jordan and City Council  
**THRU:** Susan Norton, Chief of Staff  
**FROM:** Jared Rabren, Airport Director  
**DATE:**  
**SUBJECT:** Taxiway E Extension Environmental Assessment

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests approval for the Aviation Division to submit a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) environmental-only grant application to fund 90% of project costs to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Taxiway E Extension project at Drake Field.

**BACKGROUND:**

There are currently over 80 aircraft based east on the east side of the airfield. The southernmost taxiway providing access to the east side of the airfield is currently Taxiway E, located 3,400 ft from the Runway 16 threshold. Under favorable conditions, most small- to medium sized aircraft arriving on Runway 16 can decelerate in time to safely maneuver onto Taxiway D. However; larger aircraft, and smaller aircraft under unfavorable conditions, are unable to decelerate prior to reaching Taxiway D and must exit the runway to the west. These aircraft must then cross the runway at either Taxiway D or Taxiway C to reach their intended destination.

This project will provide a new taxiway connector located 4,800 ft from the Runway 16 threshold. Analysis of aircraft performance data available from the FAA indicates increasing the available distance from 3,400 ft to 4,800 ft from the Runway 16 end will significantly reduce the number of aircraft having to cross the runway to access hangars on the east side of the airfield. Reducing runway crossings will improve airport safety by reducing the potential for runway incursions.

Early environmental investigations for the project were initiated late 2022. Potential wetlands and floodplain impacts were identified, prompting coordination with regulatory agencies. Considering these potential impacts and associated mitigation efforts, the FAA determined a separate Environmental Assessment (EA) is required prior to initiating project design.

**DISCUSSION:**

This project is included on the Airport's 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and is programmed for an environmental-only FAA AIP grant in federal fiscal year (FY) 2023. Design and construction will be funded under separate FAA grants in federal FY 2024 and FY 2026, respectively. Pending Council approval, Garver, in collaboration with the Aviation Division, will prepare an FAA AIP environmental-only grant application for signature of the Mayor. Upon receipt of an FAA environmental-only grant offer in Spring 2023, the Aviation Division will seek approval from Council to execute the grant offer and execute Task Order 07 in the amount of

---

Mailing address:

113 W. Mountain Street  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

[www.fayetteville-ar.gov](http://www.fayetteville-ar.gov)

\$208,000 with Garver, LLC to complete the Environmental Assessment. All costs associated with Task Order 07 will be included in the FAA environmental-only grant application. The FAA AIP grant will cover 90% of project costs which total \$189,450.00. The Aviation Division will submit a grant application to the ADA for reimbursement of the remaining 10% of project costs at the conclusion of the environmental phase.

**BUDGET/STAFF IMPACT:**

The Aviation Division may expend up to \$121,050 of its fund balance reserve. This amount includes \$100,000 for cash-flow to cover the FAA's 90% share of billed invoices until monthly reimbursement is issued, and \$21,050 for cash-flow to cover the ADA's share until reimbursement at the end of the project.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Txwy E Extension Environmental Assessment Grant App SRF, FYV Taxiway E Extension Environmental Assessment - AIP Grant Application Package

---

Mailing address:

113 W. Mountain Street  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

[www.fayetteville-ar.gov](http://www.fayetteville-ar.gov)