

## Public Workshop #2 Event Summary

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 6:30-8:30 PM  
Metzner Early Learning Center, 680 Franklin Avenue, Hartford, CT

### Introduction

The second Public Workshop for the Hartford-Brainard Airport Property Study was held on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Metzner Early Learning Center at 680 Franklin Avenue in Hartford, CT. Approximately 50 people were in attendance. The workshop consisted of a presentation from Frank Fish and Thomas Madden of BFJ Planning, Jamison Dague of HR&A Advisors, James Olsen of Tighe & Bond, and Ron Price of QED Aviation and Airports. The presentation covered initial economic, environmental, and current airport operations findings. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions following the presentation and write responses on sticky notes regarding opportunities for improvement of the current airport site and suggestions for alternative uses.



## Presentation Summary

### Economic Conditions

As part of this study, HR&A will assess the economic impacts of HFD on the City of Hartford, the region, and the State of Connecticut for both continued operations and alternative scenarios. They will also analyze the fiscal impacts of HFD on the City of Hartford and the State of Connecticut for both continued operations and alternative development scenarios, including PILOT and tax revenues. Jamison Dague of HR&A Advisors explained that the State makes a PILOT for all State-owned property in Hartford.

### Environmental Conditions

James Olsen of Tighe & Bond presented the initial results of the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, including Areas of Concern (AOCs), Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs), and a review of past and current subject property activities. According to Phase I, 23 AOCs and 5 RECs were identified onsite. As the ESA progresses, Phase II will provide an initial evaluation of soil and groundwater for evidence of prior releases on the Site at or downgradient of each AOC/REC. Phase III will evaluate the extent of identified constituents of concern (COCs) from Phase II. The next steps include beginning the soil boring, groundwater monitoring, and concrete/sub-slab soil program.

### Airport Operations

Ron Price of QED Aviation and Airports presented preliminary aviation demand forecasts, current airport finances, estimates for improvements, and analyses of current and future operations.

## Questions & Answer Session

Following the presentation, the project team opened the floor for attendees to make comments and ask questions. Below are summaries of the comments and questions received and answers provided. Comments are not copied verbatim.

- Concerns were voiced over the ability to quantify the economic benefits of the airport, specifically the value of business aviation, workforce development, and student involvement.
- Attendees were interested in opportunities to expand aviation innovations, such as eVTOL.
- The airport's role as a regional destination in central Connecticut was discussed.
- Concerns were voiced over the impact on local businesses if the airport were to close.





**Ideas on Two Scenarios:**

**If the airport were to remain open:**

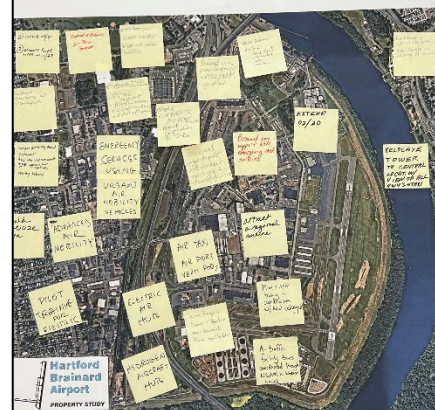
1. *What improvements can be made to improve the Site and operations?*
  - Aviation innovation
    - Air taxi
    - Vertiport
    - Advanced air mobility
    - eVTOL
    - Electric air hub
    - Hydrogen aircraft hub
  - Expanding operations
    - Extend Runway 2/20
    - Attract regional airlines and corporate aviation
    - More hangars and bigger runways
  - Pilot/ANP training in coordination with local colleges
  - Solar panels on existing structures
  - Emergency services

**If the airport were to close:**

1. *What would you like to see here?*
2. *What do you think is economically feasible?*
  - A large memorial to commemorate the airport and history
  - A structure that reflects the heritage
  - Nothing else is feasible besides an airport
  - The ability for Hartford residents to access the river
  - Economic development

**If the airport were to remain open:**

- 1) *What enhancements can be made to improve the airport site and operations?*



**If the airport were to close:**

- 1) *What would you like to see here?*
- 2) *What do you think is economically feasible?*

