

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Pryor Field Regional Airport
Decatur, Alabama**

Proposed Action:

Acquisition of approximately 5.0 ac. of land (Parcel 6) located on north end of Runway 18 at Pryor Field Regional Airport (Airport) (**Att. I Figures 1-4**) & (**App. I, Figure 1-3**). The Airport is located northeast of the center of Decatur, Alabama, east of Bee Line Hwy. (Hwy. 31), between Flightline Road and Stearman Way. Surrounding land use is agricultural, commercial, industrial, and rural land. Parcel 6 is currently owned by the State of Alabama and is cleared grassed land being utilized as a Frisbee golf course. Any future development activities will be subject to environmental review.

Purpose & Need:

Allow for future aeronautical development and expansion of future airport services. Proposed acquisition of this property is noted on the FAA approved Airport Layout Plan (ALP) for the airport (**Att. I, Figure 5**). The acquisition is being pursued at this time, in accordance with the Capital Improvement Plan (**Att. I, Figure 4**) for future development of hangars proposed in 2022. The airport currently has a wait list of 41 aircraft needing storage space immediately. The proposed parcel for acquisition is adjacent to the existing hangar area and is a logical place for expansion. Proposed Action acquisition is to ensure that compatible land use is preserved adjacent to the airport. By owning certain land, an airport can control the land uses around the airport, thereby enhancing overall safety and compatibility. The Proposed Action for this EA is for acquisition only. Any future development of the acquired property will be subject to environmental review at that time.

Alternatives:

Two alternatives were considered during the Pryor Field Regional Airport master planning process and development of the Capital Improvement Plan. This plan identified the need for land acquisition and short & long-term development needs for the airport (**Att. I, Figure 4**). The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA require a thorough and objective assessment of all reasonable alternatives as well as an assessment of a no action alternative. In accordance with FAA Orders 1050.1F and 5050.4B, alternatives can be eliminated from further consideration if the alternatives do not fulfill the purpose and need for the proposed action or cannot be reasonably implemented. No alternatives meet these criteria.

Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

No additional land would be acquired by the Pryor Field Regional Airport, and the airport boundary would remain in its existing location. The No Action alternative would not meet the Purpose and Need described previously, and the airport would not have the ability or control to ensure compatible land use. The No Action alternative has been carried forward for further evaluation as required under FAA Orders 5050.4B and 1050.1F, and pursuant to CEQ regulations (40CFR-1502.14). However, it would not be consistent with existing Airport development plans.

Alternative 2: (Land Acquisition / Preferred Action)

Acquisition of 5.0 acres (Parcel 6) as mentioned in previous sections. The proposed acquisition of the parcel is shown on the FAA approved Airport Layout Plan (**Figure 5**) and meets the Purpose and Need for the project. Land acquisition described in the Proposed Action would be undertaken in accordance with FAA Order 5100.37B, Land Acquisition and Relocation Assistance for Airport

Projects, and FAA Advisory Circular 150/5100-17, Land Acquisition and Relocation Assistance for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Assisted Projects. Future Airport improvement/development of the acquired land would require separate environmental review by the FAA.

Probable Impacts:

Air Quality

The project is a property acquisition only with no ground disturbance. There is potential to increase landside or airside capacity (including an increase of surface vehicles) and will not impact air quality or violate regulatory air quality standards. There are no project components containing unusual circumstances in close proximity to areas where public has access and no other considerations warrant further analysis.

The project site is not located in a Clean Air Act non-attainment or maintenance area.

Considering the project is land acquisition only, all components of the project are presumed to conform. This falls under exemption “4. Transfers of Ownership, Interests, and Titles in Land, Facilities, and Real and Personal Properties, Regardless of the Form or Method of the Transfer [40 CFR 93.153(c)(2)(xiv)]”.

Biological Resources

Proposed Project will have no effect. There are no known listed species within or near the project area. Considering that the property is currently cleared, grassed, and currently being utilized as a Frisbee golf course (**Photos App. II**). Historically the parcel has been utilized for agricultural purposes, no listed species will be impacted. In addition, considering there are no ground disturbance activities or development proposed at this time, there are no anticipated impacts to listed species. Correspondence with USFWS concurrence was received on March 26, 2020. (**Att.II**)

Climate

Proposed Project will have no effect.

The proposed project is a land acquisition only with no ground disturbance. No increase or decrease of Green House Gases (GHG) emissions is anticipated.

Coastal Resources

Proposed Project will have no effect. Proposed project is not located in a Coastal Zone.

Section 4f

Proposed Project will have no effect. The proposed property is zoned Institutional District (ID) and does permit public parks and/or playgrounds. GMC interviewed Bruce Causey, Executive Director of Facilities, and Maintenance & Safety for the Calhoun Community College. Mr. Causey indicated that the property was owned by the Community College and is not designated as a park. Based on that information, the project site is not a designated public park, recreation area, or wildlife or waterfowl refuge of national, state, or local significance. It is not a historic site of national, state, or local significance. The property is owned by the State of Alabama as part of the Calhoun County Community College campus and contains a Frisbee golf course that was established for students and not designated for public use. (**Att. II**)

Farmlands

This project involves the acquisition of property containing soils that are classified as prime farmland; however, none of the property is currently utilized as farmland. The project will not require the conversion of farmland.

Cumulative Impacts

Evaluation of potential cumulative impacts, impacts associated with the Proposed Action have been combined with impacts of past (3 years), present, and next 5 years.

Programmed Projects 2020 - 2024

- 2020 - Taxiway Rehabilitation, 5-Unit Hangar Building
- 2021 - Apron Rehabilitation, corporate hangar site work
- 2022 - Hangar Development site work, Airport layout plan update
- 2023 - Land Acquisition
- 2024 - North Hangar Development Ph. 1

Implementation depends on funding availability, traffic demands, and operations of the airport for overall safety. All future projects will require environmental review by the FAA. There are no other known development projects (federal or non-federal) to occur within the next 5 years. Future airport construction could potentially affect biological resources, land use, cultural resources (historical, architectural, archaeological, air quality, soils, vegetation, and visual resources. All future projects would require environmental review through the NEPA process by FAA.

Hazardous Materials

Proposed Project will have no effect. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was completed for the acquisition of the property and it did not identify any Recognized Environmental Conditions. (Att. III)

Historic and Cultural Resources

Proposed Project will have no effect. Project is land acquisition only. There are no ground disturbing activities for the Proposed Action. There are no anticipated impacts to historic properties. Correspondence with the Alabama Historic Commission is attached. (Att. II)

Land Use

Proposed Project will have no effect. The project is land acquisition only. There are no ground disturbing activities for the Proposed Action. There are no anticipated impacts that have land use ramifications, such as disruption of communities, relocation of residences or businesses, or impact natural resource areas.

Natural Resources & Energy supply

Proposed Project will have no effect. The project is an acquisition only. No anticipated impacts to natural resources and energy consumption.

Noise

Proposed Project will have no effect. The project is an acquisition only and there are currently no ground disturbance activities for the Proposed Action. Therefore, there are no anticipated impacts in regards to noise and noise compatible land use.

Socioeconomic & Environmental Justice

Proposed Project will have no effect. No disturbance activities are planned so no changes in traffic patterns, Level of Service or community impacts are anticipated.

Visual & Light Emissions

Proposed Project will have no effect.

Floodplains

Proposed Project will have no effect. No. The proposed project is not located in or encroaches upon the 100-year floodplain, as designated by FEMA. See FEMA map (**Att. I, Figure 7**)

Wetlands

Proposed Project will have no effect. The property was delineated for Waters of the U.S. (streams and wetlands) by a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS). The property was a maintained grass lot and no jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. (WOUS) were noted on the property. The Wetland Inventory Map is attached in the Figures section of this report. (**Att. I, Figure 6**)

Surface Waters

Proposed Project will have no effect. The property was delineated for Waters of the U.S. (streams and wetlands) by a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS). The property was a maintained grass lot and no jurisdictional WOUS were noted on the property. The Wetland Inventory Map is attached in the Figures section of this report. (**Figure 6**)

Ground Water

Proposed Project will have no effect.

Wild & Scenic Rivers

Proposed Project will have no effect.

Permits

Due to project being land acquisition only and no proposed ground disturbance, no permits are anticipated.

Mitigation

Due to project being land acquisition only and no proposed ground disturbance, no mitigation requirements are anticipated for the proposed project.

Public Involvement

Draft EA was made available for 30 days for public comment through an advertisement for A Notice of Availability for a Public Hearing in a local newspaper, the Decatur Daily, on June 2, 2020 in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1F. The Draft EA was made available for review at the Pryor Field Regional Airport main office. There were no public comments. A copy of the advertisement is included in (**Att. II**).

Federal Finding:

I have carefully and thoroughly considered the facts contained in the attached EA. Based on that information, I find the proposed Federal action is consistent with existing national environmental policies and objectives of Section 101(a) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and other applicable environmental requirements. I also find the proposed Federal action with the required mitigation referenced above will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment or include any condition requiring any consultation pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of NEPA. As a result, FAA will not prepare an EIS for this action.

APPROVED: _____

Date: _____

DISAPPROVED: _____

Date: _____