



Town of Mammoth Lakes

Planning & Economic Development Commission Staff Report

Meeting Date: December 8, 2021

AGENDA TITLE: Consideration of the Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) for Years 2022-31 and adopt a resolution finding the ACIP consistent with the General Plan

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT:

Mammoth Yosemite Airport

Sierra Shultz, Deputy Airport Manager

OBJECTIVE:

1. Staff recommends the Planning & Economic Development Commission receive a presentation on the draft ACIP for Years 2022-31, receive any public comment, and confirm by resolution that the ACIP is consistent with the General Plan.

KEY ISSUES:

1. Is the proposed 9-year Airport Capital Improvement Plan consistent with the General Plan?
2. Is the proposed project consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)?

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Town is required to submit an Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) annually. Final approval of the ACIP project priorities and projected costs is completed by the Town Council on an annual basis. The Planning and Economic Development Commission determines if the ACIP is consistent with the General Plan. The ACIP lays out a long-term capital improvement program budget for the town. Projects on the ACIP are eligible for Airport Improvement Grant Funding. While the FAA is under no obligation to fund the projects listed on the ACIP, the FAA cannot fund them unless they do appear on the ACIP. The FAA and Town Council have determined that the projects listed on the ACIP are important because they address conditions at the Airport that are either non-standard or constraining to current operations.

The purpose of this staff report is to allow the PEDC to review the 9-year Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) and determine if the ACIP is consistent with the General Plan. The annual review allows opportunities for Town Council to allocate funding to projects, shift priorities and adjust the ACIP based on any new information or priorities. Staff presented a summary of the draft ACIP to Town Council on June 2, 2021, and the Council provided general consensus on the upcoming projects. Prior to adoption of the ACIP by the Town Council the PEDC must first find the ACIP consistent with the General Plan.

ANALYSIS OF KEY ISSUES:

1. Can findings be made to determine that the proposed 9-year ACIP is consistent with the General Plan?

Government Code Section 65401 requires the Town planning agency (PEDC) to review and report on proposed capital projects for conformity with the adopted General Plan. The PEDC's review and assessment will be provided to the Town Council to facilitate final approval of the document. The ACIP as proposed meets a number of goals and objectives outlined in the General Plan as summarized below.

- Economy
 - E.1.F.1: Actively seek state and federal funding for airport improvements.
 - E.1.F.2: Upgrade the Mammoth Yosemite Airport terminal to allow for regional air service.
 - E.1.G: Develop facilities that support commercial and charter air carrier service.
 - E.3.C: Support development of major public and private facilities that contribute to destination resort visitation in Mammoth Lakes.
- Mobility
 - M.18.2: Work with regional transportation partners to plan for and implement transportation projects that improve regional connectivity and access.
 - M.18.5: Continue to support Mammoth Yosemite Airport as a regional transportation hub through advancement of the policies and actions for air service established in the General Plan Economy Element.
- Public Health and Safety
 - S.3.A: Design all structures in Mammoth Lakes to withstand snow loads and to reduce any additional hazards created by snow accumulation.
 - S.4: Maintain adequate emergency response capabilities.
 - S.7.A: Collaborate with local, State, and federal fire protection and land management agencies to advance wildfire mitigation and safety.

Major projects included in the ACIP over the next five years, include an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF)/Snow Removal Equipment building, wildlife security fencing, land acquisitions, rehabilitation of asphalt surfaces, and Helicopter Parking Apron (phase I). A full list of projects is included as Attachment 1. As described in the draft PEDC Resolution (Attachment 3), staff found that the 9-year CIP is consistent with the General Plan.

2. Is the proposed project consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)?

Staff has determined that determining ACIP consistency with the General Plan is not a project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 and therefore, not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

STAFF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION:

Staff finds that the 9-year ACIP is consistent with the General Plan and recommends that the Planning and Economic Development Commission adopt the attached Planning and Economic Development Commission Resolution, making the required CEQA findings and General Plan consistency findings.

Attachments

1. FY 2022-31 ACIP Summary and Map
2. Draft Airport Layout Plan (ALP) sheets 2 and 14 (reference material)
3. PEDC Resolution 21-