

Martin County Airport Exploratory Study
Consultant Team Progress Report #5
June 23, 2003

- ✓ The consultant team is finalizing the preliminary results of the exploratory study. Although the initial schedule indicated that the preliminary results would be released this week (the week of June 23rd), the preparation of certain elements of the study has taken slightly longer than anticipated. In particular, the consultant team continues to refine the cost estimate associated with the construction of a new airport (including in particular the costs associated for filling and grading each site) to ensure that the estimate is as accurate as possible.
- ✓ **The consultant team will release the preliminary results of the exploratory study on Tuesday, July 1, 2003.** We are coordinating with Martin County staff to ensure that the preliminary results are available in one or more of the following formats: (1) an electronic file posted on the Martin County website dedicated to the exploratory study, (2) an electronic file contained on a CD-ROM and available from Martin County (potentially for a small fee), and (3) a printed and bound version of the document that would be made available for review (and possibly purchase) at the Martin County administrative offices, Martin County Airport administrative offices, and local libraries.
- ✓ In light of the release date, **Martin County and the consultant team have tentatively scheduled the Open House concerning the exploratory study for Tuesday, July 22, 2003 at the Blake Library (Armstrong Room), between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm.** A representative from each of the consulting firms working on the exploratory study will be available to discuss the study with interested members of the community. Comment forms also will be available so that all comments can be recorded and considered.
- ✓ Similarly, **the deadline for comments on the exploratory study will be moved to July 31, 2003.**
- ✓ Consistent with the Scope of Services and the specific questions posed by the Board of County Commissioners at the various public meetings concerning the exploratory study and Martin County Airport, the document released next week will contain the following items:
 - Executive Summary
 - Description of current conditions
 - Presentation of illustrative redevelopment scenario for Witham Field (maps)
 - Identification of impacts of closing and redeveloping Witham Field (narrative and tables)
 - Financial issues (including grant reimbursement) and economic impacts
 - Effects on Airport users and transportation system
 - Potentially adverse environmental conditions affecting redevelopment
 - Effects on Martin County Comprehensive Plan
 - Legal approvals and potential constraints

- Schedule
 - Case studies of other general aviation airports that have closed in recent years
 - Presentation of three scenarios for constructing a new airport in Martin County (maps and narrative)
 - Identification of impacts of constructing new airport (narrative and tables)
 - Aviation and airspace impacts
 - Cost estimate
 - Environmental impacts
 - Effects on Martin County Comprehensive Plan
 - Legal approvals and potential constraints
 - Schedule
 - Presentation and description of ten downsizing alternatives
 - Identification of impacts of downsizing (narrative and tables)
 - Financial issues (including cost)
 - Effect on Airport operations and transportation system
 - Required studies and approvals and potential constraints
- ✓ As readers should see from the list above and the document released next week, the consultant team has attempted to adhere closely to the Scope of Services and to answer the specific questions posed by the Board of County Commissioners. However, the consultant team did not (1) create three redevelopment scenarios for Martin County Airport as indicated in the Scope of Services but instead developed one redevelopment scenario that represents a mix of land uses consistent with the environmental condition of the property and general development patterns in the area, and (2) calculate a specific number for the market value of Witham Field as indicated in the Scope of Services, since doing so proved unachievable in light of the time and budgetary constraints of the study, and instead has identified the assessed value of the property using data supplied by Martin County and estimated the value of the property for the illustrative redevelopment scenario.
- ✓ The consultant team also wishes to remind those interested in the exploratory study that we have not been asked to, and therefore will not make, conclusions on the feasibility of any particular alternative or present recommendations on the advisability of pursuing any particular option.