

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	16061	Agenda Number	14.
Meeting Date:	6/28/2012		Department:	Aviation	
Subject					
Approve an ordinance adopting a new Master Development Plan for Austin-Bergstrom International Airport; granting variances to specific code provisions; establishing a review and amendment process; and repealing Ordinance 94-1117-L.					
Amount and Source of Funding					
Fiscal Note					
There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:	November 17, 1994: Council approved original ABIA Site development Ordinance				
For More Information:	Joseph Medici 530-6563; Robert Pirtle 974-7234; Susan Garnett 974-7064				
Boards and Commission Action:	Recommended by the Environmental Board and the Planning Commission.				
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					

Additional Backup Information

In 1991, the US Department of Defense announced the closing of Bergstrom Air Force Base. The City of Austin's Department of Aviation (DOA) began construction of new airport facilities and a new runway in 1994. In June 1997, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) commenced commercial air cargo operations. Commercial air passenger service began in May 1999.

Due to the aggressive schedule for design and construction of the conversion of the Air Force base to a civilian passenger airport, a special review and permitting process was developed. The Aviation and Watershed Protection and Development Review Departments worked together to streamline the review process and treat the airport as a single development. The agreement was subsequently formalized in an ordinance passed by Council in November 1994. This ordinance, which served as a blueprint for development at the new airport, contained a Master Plan of public improvements needed for the airport's opening day. It did not address private development on airport property beyond the cargo and rental car tenants. The first Airport Drainage Master Plan was completed in 1995 and provided the information for future drainage design decisions and was also used as the basis for permitting the construction projects needed to get the Airport open and operational – referred to as "opening day" conditions.

In 2002, the DOA updated the 1995 Drainage Master Plan. The 2002 updated plan examined the post-Opening Day conditions and recommended two alternatives for drainage improvements to meet future water flow conditions. The two major alternatives considered were on-site detention and participation in the Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP).

The current permitting process uses a piecemeal approach that greatly reduces the potential developable land available at the airport and significantly limits the airport's ability to support aviation activities for the future. Instead, airport projects should be evaluated as part of a comprehensive campus-wide airport development program to ensure that the appropriate amount of land is dedicated for stormwater facilities.

The DOA recommended an update to the Drainage Master Plan in 2007 to focus on several imperatives that would improve the site's overall stormwater management, environmental sustainability, land-use strategy, and business development initiatives. Council authorized the execution and negotiation for professional consultant services for the Drainage Master Plan update in May 2009.

The Aviation, Watershed Protection, Planning and Development Review, and Law Departments have collaborated to develop an environmentally sustainable campus-wide stormwater master plan that maximizes developable land at the Airport while providing environmental benefits that exceed current requirements; coordinate the Drainage Master Plan Update with the existing ABIA Airport Master Plan; update the existing drainage models; and develop a site specific land development ordinance for future ABIA development.

The DOA is requesting City Council action to approve the Ordinance to permit the long-term, efficient, and sustainable development of the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.

This project is located within the 78719 zip code and is managed by the Public Works Department.