AUS Environmental Assessment Briefing



Austin-Bergstrom International Airport



Kane Carpenter Environmental Manager Topics

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Environmental Assessment (EA) Status
- Environmental Impact Study Areas
- Public Outreach
- Schedule





NEPA

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was the first major environmental law in the United States and is often called the "Magna Carta" of Federal environmental laws.
 - NEPA requires Federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of proposed major Federal actions prior to making decisions.
 - We must balance the benefits of the proposed action against the impacts.
 - Evaluate alternatives to minimize impacts.
 - Inform and involve the public before making a decision.
- AUS is a federally obligated facility.
- The Environmental Assessment is the FAA recommended process for complying with NEPA.



Proposed Action





Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

Environmental Assessment Impact Categories

- Affected Environments
 - Air Quality
 - Biological Resources
 - Climate
 - Coastal Resources
 - Parkland, recreational, etc.
 - Hazardous Materials,
 - Historical, archeological and cultural resources
 - Land Use

Affected Environments

- Natural resources & energy supply
- Noise
- Farmland
- Socioeconomic & environmental justice
- Visual effects
- Water Resources (floodplain, wetlands, scenic rivers, etc.)



Environmental Assessment Update

Major Sections in an EA

- 90% Statement of Purpose and Need
- 90% Description of Proposed Action
- Initiated Alternatives Analysis
- 15% Affected Environments
- Not started Confirm Significant Environmental Consequences
- In progress Public Presentations & Feedback
- Initiated FAA coordination
- Not started Finding of no significant impact (FONSI) issued by FAA



Public Outreach

- Virtual Public Scoping Meeting on September 9, 2021
 - Launch Meeting Zoom
 - Meeting Notice posted in La Voz and Austin American Statesman
- EA Website is live (Spanish and English)
 - AUS Evaluación Ambiental (Spanish) | SpeakUp Austin!
 - <u>AUS Environmental Assessment | SpeakUp Austin!</u>



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Near-Term Milestones

August 2021	 Purpose & Need Finalized AAC Briefing FAA Coordination Meetings initiated (bi-monthly) State Historic Preservation Officer Coordination
September 2021	 Alternatives Analysis Finalized Biological Field Work Initiated Public Scoping Meeting
October 2021	 Draft Noise and Air Quality Studies Completed Cultural Resource Field Work Initiated
November 2021	 Environmental Impact Category Study Reports Completed Final EA Document Development Initiated ACC Briefing
January 2022	•Final Draft EA Public Meeting



Questions



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