

Envisioning Austin's Airport of the Future

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Frequently Asked Questions

Here are commonly asked questions about the ABIA 2040 Master Plan.

What is the ABIA 2040 Master Plan?

The ABIA 2040 Master Plan is a set of short-term and long-term ideas that describe the vision of airport facilities, uses and requirements for Austin's airport. The ABIA 2040 Master Plan will be based on aviation forecasts, which includes growth projections for passenger travel, need for new runways, new technologies, safety and security needs, and the expansion of existing and potential new facilities. The plan also addresses future cargo operations at ABIA.

How does passenger growth affect the ABIA master plan?

Passenger growth is measured in two ways – annual and peak. Annual and peak passenger growth affects how ABIA functions in two different ways. An increase in annual passenger growth will mostly affect the size or number of terminal buildings, roadways, auto parking, hotels, catering, and rental car facilities.

An increase in the number of passengers during peak hours affects how aircraft operations works and will impact the number of terminal gates and airfield facilities; which includes runways, taxiways, and apron areas (the parking area for planes where they can be refueled, unloaded or loaded with passengers).

When will the master plan be completed?

The final version of the ABIA 2040 Master Plan is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2018.

Who is developing the master plan?

ABIA staff, engineers, consultants and planners are developing the master plan. Input is being gathered from elected officials, advisory committees and the public, all of which is being considered when preparing the ABIA 2040 Master Plan.

What is Aviation Forecasting?

Aviation forecasting is an estimate of future airport activity for both passenger and aircraft operations. It is the foundation for the ABIA 2040 Master Plan. Each recommendation in the Master Plan will be based on the aviation forecasts.

The forecast helps to determine the future sizes and construction timeframes for new facilities and the expansion of existing facilities. Here are the elements of an aviation forecast:

- Passengers (domestic and international)
- Commercial aircraft operations (domestic and international)
- Freighter (all-cargo aircraft)
- Air taxi aircraft
- General aviation aircraft, and military (aircraft and helicopter)
- Annual and peak hour demands

How does the anticipated increase in e-commerce/online purchasing affect air cargo activity?

Increases to online shopping is expected to change, as a result, the industry projects double-digit growth over the next five years. The growth in e-commerce should have a major impact on the amount of air cargo. The ABIA 2040 Master Plan will consider these projections in increased air cargo based on e-commerce growth.

Where can I learn more?

You can visit www.ABIAMasterplan.com.

You can also visit the City's website at www.austintexas.gov/airport.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Retail E-Commerce Sales 1st Quarter 2017, May 16, 2017.

