

**FINGER LAKES REGIONAL AIRPORT
AIRPORT COMMITTEE MEETING - CONSULTANT'S UPDATE**

DECEMBER 2014

I. STATUS OF CURRENT PROJECTS

A. Taxiway Rehabilitation & Drainage Improvements – Phase II

- FAA funded entire amount of this project, including the add-alternates.
- Zoladz Construction requested electronic files for the project design, which MJ has provided them. They are considering a start date after January 1, 2015. We will stay in touch with them and see if they want to begin earthwork during the winter months. Will be primarily weather - dependent. If Zoladz indicates that they wish to begin work during winter months, we will hold a pre-construction meeting with them to discuss project specifics such as time of completion, etc.

B. Fuel System Improvements

- MJ has executed contracts with Seneca County to aid in the purchase of the Jet-A refueler truck, design improvements to the fuel farm and provide construction inspection/administration services.
- Seneca County, at last night's meeting, was to pass an authorization to permit the County to direct-purchase the refueler. This should save money by avoiding the advertising and bidding process. Improvements to the fuel farm will include increased flow rates, upgrading the credit card vending software, installation of an emergency shut-off and installation of new pumps.
- The grants for this project are through the NYSDOT Aviation Capital Grant Program, 2013 round.

II. PROJECT FUNDING UPDATES

- A. FAA AIP Funding:** McFarland Johnson was at the FAA New York Airports District Office (NYADO) the past two days to meet with the FAA and discuss projects and funding for the next five years.

Larry A'Hearn, the long-time FAA planner assigned to Finger Lakes Regional Airport, is retiring effective December 31st. FAA has yet to name a replacement or transition plan.

FAA indicated that they are not yet authorized to write grants for FY2015 projects as of yet.

FAA has programmed the design of the main aircraft parking apron rehabilitation for 2015, using \$150,000 of non-primary entitlement funds and the balance from state apportionment ("discretionary"). This would be followed by a two-phased construction process in 2016 & 2017, due to the size of the apron and expected costs to rehabilitate the apron.

MJ also discussed the feasibility of a runway extension, beginning with an environmental

assessment. A key element of this project would be demonstrating the need for the extension to the FAA. A method to do this would be to collect letters of support from current and potential turbine aircraft owners and users of the airport. These include Seneca Meadows, Angie's List, Sessler Wrecking, Air Methods/LifeNet, Bonadent and Solerno's. Additional users/aircraft owners can be discussed. MJ can provide a template letter to use to solicit letters of support.

Should the "Waterloo" site be selected for a new casino, this would also be a very strong factor in demonstrating the need for a runway extension.

It would also be helpful to track operations of and fuel purchases by any jets that use the airport, including Air Methods/LifeNet.

MJ will attempt to move the runway extension up in priority on the ACIP, however it will be very helpful to have a replacement at FAA for Larry A'Hearn.

The current 5-year Capital Improvement Program will be updated based on the outcome of the meeting with FAA and distributed to Seneca County.

B. NYSDOT Funding: We are currently awaiting announcements from the NYSDOT, regarding the 2014 round of Aviation Capital Grants.

The County submitted an application for new snow removal equipment. Value of the total grant is \$175,000. Seneca County share at 10% would be \$17,500, NYSDOT share at 90% would be \$157,500. Grant process is competitive with announcements anticipated at the NYAMA Conference in mid-September. NYSDOT was originally to announce the grant winners in September, at the New York Aviation Management Association Fall Conference in Syracuse. However, at that time they delayed announcements. No positive date for announcements has been provided, however we were hopeful that it may be today, in coincidence with announcements of NYS CFA grants.