

From: Jack.Delaney@faa.gov [mailto:Jack.Delaney@faa.gov]  
To: Jean Johannigman  
Cc: Jim Keefer/AGL/FAA@FAA  
Subject: RE: Greensburg Airport Link  
04/22/2009 03:39 PM

Ms. Johannigman,

The simple answer is, probably not. As you are aware, the county/city already funded an alternative site study. While you disagree with the outcome, the Board determined the existing site was the best location site for possible expansion at the airport. The airport sponsor determines how and where they exist. The FAA provides guidance to the sponsor and assists the sponsor with their planning and environment requirements. The FAA does not determine the direction for the airport. The local governing body is the only appropriate and legal entity to do that.

If the Board were to present a compelling reason, based on existing FAA guidance or federal regulation, that the current site is no longer financially or environmentally viable, we would consider funding a site study. If that were the case, we would likely then require the airport develop an Airport Layout Plan at their own cost, since the FAA has already provided considerable funds to the Board to develop an ALP based on the existing site.

I hope this information helps.

Jack Delaney  
Assistant Manager  
Chicago Airports District Office  
Federal Aviation Administration  
847-294-7875

Mr. Delaney,

Would it be possible at this point that the FAA might consider funding an alternate site study? I truly think if it were pursued and taken seriously that it might well help this entire situation. Again....i am one of many who are pro-expansion ....that just don't think the current site is the best investment for the future of our community. I am not just talking about the airport but how and where our community development takes place. I will also add that trust has become a real issue with the current BOAC board and this would have to be handled in a completely unbiased manner . if it could happen it might well make the difference.

Jean johannigman

**From:** Jack.Delaney@faa.gov [mailto:Jack.Delaney@faa.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2009 10:21 AM  
**To:** Jean Johannigman  
**Subject:** Greensburg Airport

Ms Johannigman:

In order to make it easier, I have put my comments/answers to your questions in [blue](#) below.

Mr Delaney,

I have spoke with you in the past about the Greensburg Airport and have found you to be a very up-front and honest source of information concerning the FAA's stance on our airport. I am trying to understand some information that the Airport board put out at a local public meeting last evening.

With the FAA's procedure....i have always understood that it was required to look at an alternative sight? Is this true or false? [Whenever an airport is doing a master plan and environmental process, the airport has to look at different alternatives, not necessarily an alternative site. While this particular airport did look at an alternative site, it is NOT required. Usually airports look at alternatives that are on their current airport or they look to expand on land that is contiguous to the airport. For an environmental document an airport must look at an option that is a "Do Nothing", meaning keeping everything at the airport as it is currently.](#)

Our airport is now a City owned airport. at the time that the County was involved in our airport...they required the BOAC to do an alternate site study to find a viable alternative site. [The same process occurs no matter what public entities own/operate the airport.](#)

I was asked and participated on the alternate site study. This study was "lead" by a member of the airport board who was I believe at the time the vice-president of the BOAC board and is now serving as the president of the board. As a member of this committee I became disillusioned with the viability of this report when in a BOAC board meeting this board member was asked by a property owner about the alternate site study and when it would have the environmental phase studied on the alternate site? This BOAC board member replied to the landowner (and besides this BOAC member and myself who served on this alt. site committee, none of the other committee members were there) he stated to this landowner that the alt. site selection committee was only done to pacify the county council who required it at the time. I can also witness that this same BOAC member gave verbal input at times on items that would make this site or that site score less than the current site. While what he was saying might have been true observations of his own about the sites.....was it unbiased? [If this study had been federally funded \(which it was not\), the FAA, along with the sponsor, would carefully consider the future site after considering, but not limited to, environmental concerns, site expansion, and financial viability.](#)

I truly feel that if a referendum were taken today on this issue....that the majority of the taxpayers would avidly support an airport expansion to aid in the economic development of our community. Having said that.....I also strongly feel from all indications in the community that they do not want this airport expanded at the current site. [You, much better than I, would be in a position to know what the community wants. That being said, there is an airport currently there and that airport has taken federal funds. When an airport takes federal funds they sign a legally binding document \(the grant\) stating that they will maintain the current airport up to FAA standards. The grant has many assurances that must be adhered to. I have attached the grant assurances to this email.](#)

Mr. ernstes gave an update talk last night at a local meeting. Here is the link to wtre's website . when you click on this...go to the bottom of the page and click on bill ernstes of the airport commission.

This link to this info may only be up today and tomorrow but I would like for you to hear it and either verify what mr. ernstes says or correct any misinformation. <http://www.1330wtre.com/> . I will also be sending you additional information by separate emails of pictures, an overhead view of the lakes and ponds in the area etc. for your viewing. [Jim Keefer had no issues with what Mr.](#)

Ernestes said at the local meeting. Since this involved conversations between Mr. Ernestes and Mr. Keefer, I really cannot add anything to that.

I have been writing an opinion column for the Greensburg daily news and I just shared my opinion on the safety of expansion at the current site. Here is a map showing the ponds in the close vicinity of the airport as well as pictures of geese landing areas at some of the ponds directly related. With our softball parks, fairgrounds, pool, bowling alley, golf course, skate board park etc in this area.....i must strongly question the safety of expanding this airport at the current location and increasing the risk to our local taxpayers of having a catastrophic incident. I think we are all aware of what bird strikes can do with the recent emergency landing on the Hudson. I am not the only resident and taxpayer who is concerned about the safety issue of this expansion. I know there is to be a public hearing.....but what good will that do other than for them to vent frustration if this is truly already a done deal. [There is mitigation than can be accomplished to alleviate some of the wildlife hazards. That will be addressed during the environmental review process.](#)

Expansion of this airport for our community is an excellent economic tool ....but not at this location. How can we the citizens have our say? [If in the environmental assessment, mitigation can not be accomplished for the expansion of the existing site than alternative sites may need to be looked at. During the environmental assessment there is a process that involves public participation and everyone on the community is always strongly encouraged to voice their opinions.](#)

From all that I understand....if they are able to come up with the 97 ½ % grant that you said they will have to compete for and don't currently have.....they will only have to come up with the other 2 ½ % [Federal grants for general aviation airports are currently funded at 95% federal, and 5% local. Some states, Indiana being one, matches 1/2 of the local share, so the airport needs to come up with 2.5% of the project. Again, as I have said before, there is no guarantee of federal funds.](#)

Which is in the range of \$470 some odd thousand dollars. I understand from a council member that they have \$100 thousand of that in hand from users. My concern is that the people of this community have their say in this as if it is ever at a point that it can not support itself it will be up to the City taxpayers to support it. The skydive business pays a great deal of this BOAC budget and my concerns are that if something would ever happen to that business for whatever reason that this could fall very much back on the taxpayers of this community. if they raise these funds without property tax then it will not have to come to a referendum and to me that is spending our tax money without representation. [It is up to the City/Airport to determine how the local share is funded. It is not up to the FAA to comment on that.](#)

The current BOAC board (while I understand this to be legal!?) is made up of 5 members and 2 to 3 of those members are not residents of the City of Greensburg. While I understand again that this is legal.....as our government goes it just seems that people that are in a position to spend our tax money should also be in a position of property tax backing these projects just like the rest of us in case something doesn't go as planned. Without their vested interest in this manner it sure seems like they can spend out tax money without representation. [The make-up of the airport board is governed by the laws of the State of Indiana. I would suggest you address any concerns about the Board to the Office of Aviation, Indiana Department of Transportation.](#)

I want to make something else perfectly clear.....i do not own land nor have family or friends that own land near the airport. I do not have land to sell for a new airport location. I do not own an airplane or have family that owns an airplane. I just want the very best decisions to be made for the safety and best interest of our community and the investment of our tax dollars. I attend and voice record and videotape all of the BOAC meetings (I only regret that I was not doing so when the board member made his blatant observation about the alternate site) and I have to tell you that I am concerned at what I have seen.

This decision is a major decision that will impact our community for generations to come.

Please help the taxpayers by making sure this expansion does happen, but in a way that can be supported by everyone. I implore your help in this matter. [Again, as I have said previously, the public will have the opportunity to comment during the public participation process.](#)

Sincerely

Jean Johannigman

Jack Delaney  
Assistant Manager  
Chicago Airports District Office  
Federal Aviation Administration  
847-294-7875