

--- On Thu, 4/9/09, Jim.Keefer@faa.gov <Jim.Keefer@faa.gov> wrote:

From: Jim.Keefer@faa.gov <Jim.Keefer@faa.gov>  
Subject: Re: Greensburg Airport  
To: "William Ernstes" <bernstes@verizon.net>  
Cc: Melanie.Myers@faa.gov, Jack.Delaney@faa.gov  
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2009, 11:49 AM

Bill,

It's good to hear from you again. I have been following the debate through the news articles we have been seeing from Greensburg.

As I told you last year (and indeed every time we have spoken on the subject), the decision on how to expand your airport is a local issue. Whether to expand at a new location or at the current location is up to the community, assuming whichever action you choose is justifiable. What I can tell you is that it will be much harder to build an expanded airport at a new location than to expand at the existing location.

First, you would have to show a compelling reason that you cannot expand at the current location, based on federal regulation and/or guidance. In other words, you would have to show from a financial and environmental standpoint that a new location was necessary.

Second, at the existing location, you already have a basic terminal building, fuel farm and hangars: all the support facilities you need for an airport. The only funding requirements at that location would be for the land and actual construction of the new runway and taxiways. If you can justify a new location, you would need to build new support facilities. Although those support facilities are eligible for federal funding, they are only eligible for construction using non-primary entitlement funds, currently \$150,000 a year. This very likely means Greensburg would have to provide all the funds up-front to build all of those support facilities. Then, once the new runway and taxiway is constructed, the city could get reimbursed for the buildings over a period of many years.

In short, a new location would likely take years longer, cost more, and require MUCH MORE up-front funding from the community.

Jim Keefer, P.E.  
Manager, Chicago Airports District Office