



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#18-0598

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: June 19, 2018

TITLE: Motion to Approve an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Tamarac to Lift
the Weight-bearing Restriction Capacity on Runway 9-27 at Fort
Lauderdale Executive Airport

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Commission approve an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Tamarac to lift the weight-bearing restriction on Runway 9-27 at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.

Background

In 1981 the City of Tamarac filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the City of Fort Lauderdale (City) resulting in a Settlement Agreement restricting the weight-bearing capacity on Runway 9-27.

After completing a study in 2015 to identify the potential effects on tenants and aircraft related noise to eliminating the restriction, it was determined that the purpose of the weight bearing restriction was obsolete. The study concluded that lifting the weight restriction would result in a positive economic benefit to the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) and the surrounding community. It would allow the Airport to be more competitive in the areas of aircraft fueling, service, maintenance, and sales, while stimulating economic opportunities for numerous consumer-oriented service, and retail businesses located in the immediate vicinity of the facility.

The weight restriction was put in place to limit noise from older, extremely loud, jet aircraft. These aircraft, known as stage 1 and stage 2 jets, were in the process of being prohibited from operating in the United States beginning January 2016. Lifting the weight restriction at FXE would allow business jets that are already using the Airport, albeit at a limited capacity, to operate at their ideal performance levels. This adjustment would reduce the number of shorter flights needed to refuel; reduce overall fuel consumption and emissions; and provide pilots with greater flexibility to fly to further destinations more efficiently.

On January 11, 2016, the City presented the concept of lifting the weight restriction on runway 9-27 to the City of Tamarac Commission. The response was a consensus that

the restriction was counterproductive from both an economic and noise perspective. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) determined the appropriate type of study required would be an Environmental Assessment Form (EA Form) (Exhibit 1). The City of Tamarac City Commission supported the City of Fort Lauderdale undertaking the FAA required study to remove the weight limit restriction.

The City of Fort Lauderdale completed the EA Form to lift the runway weight limit in 2017 and conducted a 30-day public review of the study in which there were no comments received. Updates of the study and notice of the public review period were presented at the City's Aviation Advisory Board open meeting on May 24, 2018. The City of Fort Lauderdale submitted the EA Form to the FAA for their review and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) as the final determination for the study.

As a follow up to the City of Tamarac City Commission's request to provide an update of the study results and the FAA's final review, City staff presented the findings of the EA Form to the City of Tamarac City Commission on Monday May 21, 2018 during the regularly scheduled conference meeting and on Wednesday May 23, 2018 the City of Tamarac City Commission officially approved the recommendation to eliminate the weight bearing restriction on Runway 9-27 at FXE, and enter an Interlocal Agreement (Exhibit 2).

Resource Impact

There is no Fiscal impact association with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Business Development Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Goal 7: Be a well-positioned City within the global economic and tourism markets of the South Florida region, leveraging our airports, port, and rail connections.
- Objective 4: Deliver best-in-class regional general aviation airport amenities and services to domestic and international stakeholders.
- Initiative 1: Examine the highest and best use of airport property to stimulate economic development and create jobs.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Prosperous*

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Environmental Assessment Form

Exhibit 2 – Interlocal Agreement

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