



INAUGURAL AIRPORT PROGRAM

South Suburban Airport

Environmental Impact Statement

Scoping Document

December 2003



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Scoping is being conducted with pertinent agencies, elected officials, environmental groups, and members of the public. Agency and public scoping meetings will be held on December 3, 2003. During the scoping meetings, the FAA and its consultant will be available to discuss the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and general issues identified in the proposed project overview. Additional opportunities to provide comments on the EIS will be afforded to agencies and the public throughout the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

This discussion outline contains the following sections:

- I. Scoping Process
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I. Scoping Process

1. On October 28, 2003 the FAA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to prepare a Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and conduct environmental scoping for construction and operation of inaugural airport facilities at the South Suburban Airport (SSA) site in Will County, Illinois.
2. The public scoping process is the initial step in the preparation of the EIS. Scoping, as defined by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ regulations & guidelines), is "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action." The scoping process involves the identification of:
 - the proposed Project to be studied in the EIS,
 - alternatives to be explored and evaluated and those that may be eliminated, and
 - key or significant environmental issues to be studied in the EIS.
3. The purpose of the scoping meetings is to solicit input about the Proposed Project, including identification of any conditions, studies, plans, or considerations that may be relevant to the proposed development from members of the community and regulatory agencies. Public input will again be sought and a Public Hearing held once the Draft EIS has been completed.
4. The schedule for scoping is as follows:

Notice of Intent to Prepare EIS – October 28, 2003

On *October 28, 2003* the FAA published a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* to prepare an EIS and conduct environmental scoping for the development of inaugural airport facilities for the South Suburban Airport. Additionally, legal notices of the FAA's Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS and conduct public scoping meetings for the Inaugural Airport Program were published in the following local newspapers on November 2, 2003: the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *Joliet Herald-News*, the *Daily Southtown*, the *Star Newspaper*, the *Kankakee Daily Journal*, and the *Chicago Defender*.



Agency Scoping Meeting – December 3, 2003

The FAA will conduct one agency scoping meeting:

**December 3, 2003
Governors State University
Engbretson Hall
University Parkway
University Park, Illinois
10:00AM – 12:00PM**

Public Scoping Meeting – December 3, 2003

The FAA will conduct one public scoping meeting:

**December 3, 2003
Governors State University
Engbretson Hall
University Parkway
University Park, Illinois
4:00PM – 8:00PM**

The Public Scoping Meeting will be held in conjunction with an informational workshop and will include:

- a poster board presentation of the proposed project and the EIS process;
- FAA staff available to discuss the EIS process and address the public's concerns;
- written comment forms to be used at the workshops or mailed in at a later date, and
- representatives of the Illinois Department of Transportation will be available to answer questions about the Inaugural Airport Program.

All comments will become part of the official EIS record.

Close of Scoping Comment Period – December 19, 2003

Written scoping comments may be submitted to the FAA at the address provided below no later than the close of business, Friday, December 19, 2003.

Mr. Denis R. Rewerts
Federal Aviation Administration
Chicago Airports District Office
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018

For further information, please contact Mr. Denis R. Rewerts at (847) 294-7195 (voice) and at (847) 294-7046 (facsimile).
Comments may also be e-mailed to:
Mr. Rewerts at 7-AGL-SSA-EIS-PROJECT@FAA.GOV



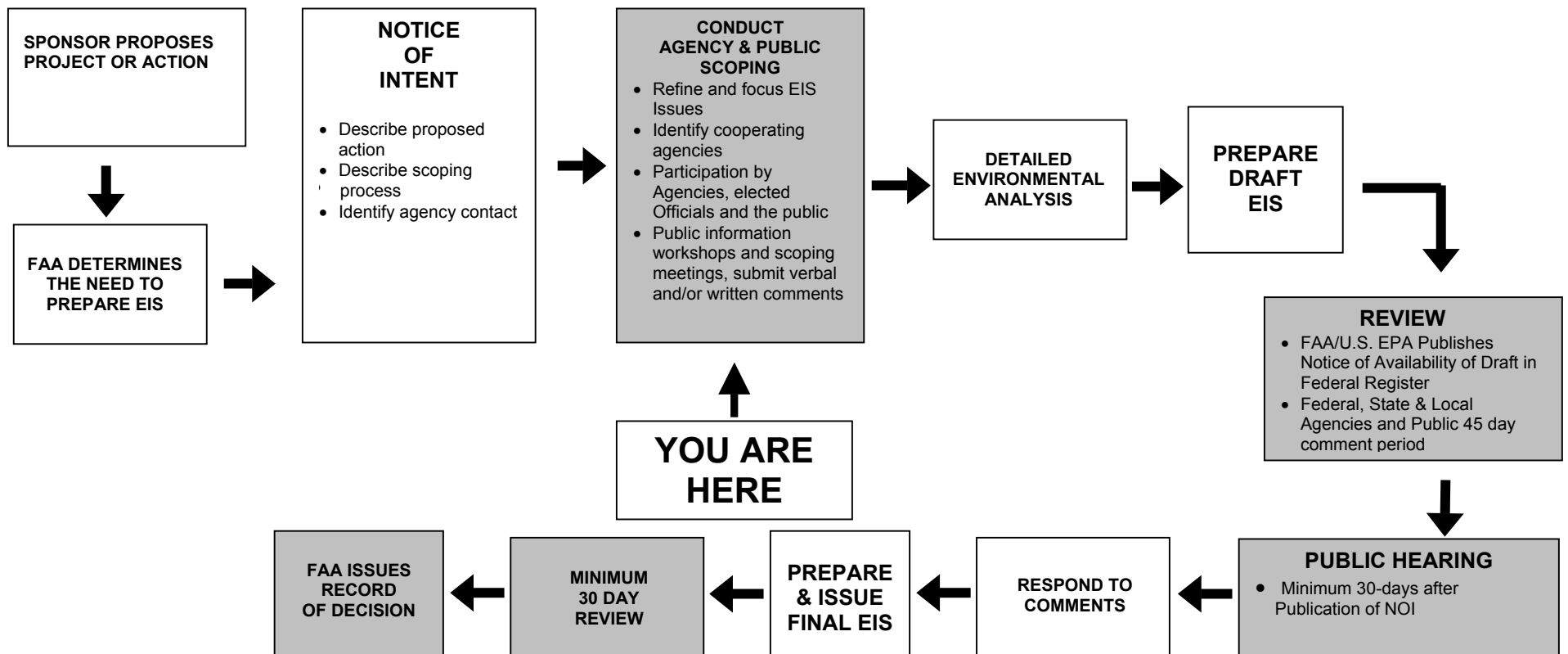
II. Environmental Process and Documentation

1. The NEPA environmental review process for the Tier 2 EIS is presented in **Exhibit 1**. Key elements of the NEPA process including details concerning the coordination and public participation process are highlighted on the Exhibit.
2. The Agency environmental documentation process involves the following items:
 - Develop the Purpose and Need for the Proposed Project
 - Identify the Proposed Project
 - Identify and Evaluate the Range of Alternatives to be considered
 - Perform a detailed Environmental Study of the Selected Alternatives
3. The FAA will prepare the environmental documentation to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) as implemented in FAA Order 1050.1D, *Policies and Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts*, and FAA Order 5050.4A, *Airport Environmental Handbook*.



Exhibit 1
Environmental Review Process Flow Chart

Environmental Review Process



III. Project Background and Purpose and Need

1. On July 12, 2002, the FAA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) on the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement for FAA Site Approval and Land Acquisition by the State of Illinois for the South Suburban Airport. This approval noted that under existing FAA criteria, the South Suburban Airport site in Will County, Illinois is a technically and environmentally feasible location for a potential new air carrier airport to serve the greater Chicago region.
2. The Illinois Department of Transportation has proposed the construction and operation of inaugural airport facilities (Inaugural Airport Program [IAP]) at the site selected in the Tier 1 ROD.
3. The proposed Federal action under consideration in this Tier 2 EIS is approval of an airport layout plan (ALP), development, construction, certification and operation of an inaugural air carrier airport at the Tier 1 site.
4. The purpose of the FAA's actions in this Tier 2 EIS is to satisfy the need to provide supplemental facilities to meet the existing and anticipated demands for air carrier, special and general cargo and general and corporate aviation use within the south suburban area of the greater Chicago region.
5. The proposed action is needed to serve supplemental demand for air carrier, special and general cargo and general and corporate aviation use within the south suburban area of the greater Chicago region.
 - A supplemental facility at the South Suburban site would provide market access for air carriers increasing the opportunity for growth in one of the most rapidly developing counties in the country.
 - The expected role of the IAP with respect to cargo is the potential handling of special and general cargo that would serve the industrial and warehousing facilities presently located in the south and southwest suburbs of Chicago.
 - Facilities for general aviation and corporate aviation will be required at the SSA to replace, expand and improve existing services and to provide access to portions of central and eastern Will County. Present facilities are insufficient to meet those needs.

IV. Proposed Project Overview

1. As currently proposed by the State of Illinois, the Inaugural Airport Program would consist of the following proposed project elements to meet the aviation demand in the south suburban area of the greater Chicago region:

New East-West Runway

- Single runway capable of accommodating air carrier operations
- Full parallel taxiway system
- Air traffic control tower and navigational facilities

New Airline Terminal

- Terminal will be sized to meet projected demand
- Aircraft parking apron
- Terminal auto parking
- Security facilities
- Access roadways from Interstate 57
- Airline maintenance facilities/fueling

New Air Cargo Facilities

- Air cargo buildings
- Aircraft parking apron
- Access roadways
- Security facilities
- Air cargo operator facilities/fueling

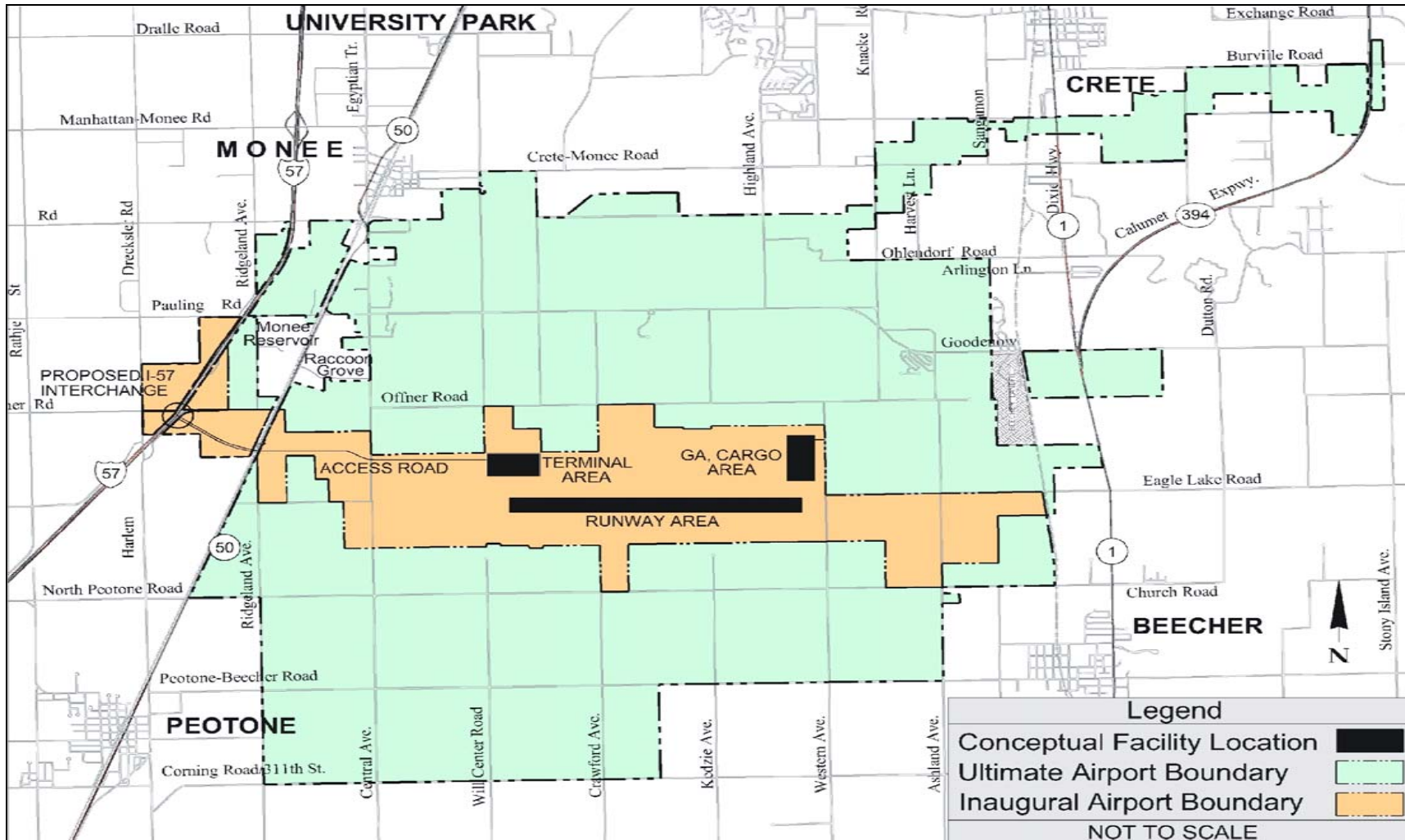
New General Aviation Facilities

- General & Corporate Aviation facilities
- Fueling

2. **Exhibit 2** depicts the proposed project elements of the Inaugural Airport Program.



Exhibit 2





V. Alternatives

1. The alternatives discussion is the heart of the environmental process. This analysis is conducted to ensure that reasonable alternatives that address the purpose and need of the project, which might enhance environmental quality or have a less detrimental effect, have not been prematurely dismissed from consideration.
2. A range of alternatives will be evaluated in this EIS. These alternatives would include:
 - No-Action Alternative
 - Sponsor's Proposed Action Alternative
 - Alternative Inaugural Airport Development at Tier 1 site
 - Use of Other Existing Airports
 - Alternative Modes of Transportation
 - Demand Management Alternatives
 - Prudent and feasible alternatives identified during the agency and public scoping process.
3. If the proposed Inaugural Airport Program (IAP) results in significant adverse impacts, mitigation options will also be considered for implementation.



VI. Preliminary Environmental Issues to be Studied

1. The environmental issues to be studied shall consist of the following elements:
 - Noise Impacts
 - Land Use Impacts
 - Social Impacts
 - Environmental Justice
 - Surface Transportation
 - Residential, Business, Cemetery Relocations
 - Socioeconomic Impacts
 - Air Quality
 - Water Quality
 - DOT Section 303(c)/Section 4(f) Lands
 - Parks, Historic Properties & Other Protected Lands
 - Historic, Architectural, Archaeological, Cultural Resources
 - Visual Impacts
 - Biotic Communities
 - Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna
 - Wetlands
 - Floodplains
 - Coastal Zone Management
 - Coastal Barriers
 - Wild and Scenic Rivers
 - Farmlands
 - Energy Supply and Natural Resources
 - Light Emissions
 - Solid Waste and Hazardous Materials Impacts
 - Construction Impacts
 - Cumulative Impacts
2. Categories such as Coastal Zone Management and Coastal Barriers are not expected to be affected by the Inaugural Airport Program and would thus likely be discussed in less detail.
3. Based on an initial qualitative evaluation, it is anticipated that the key environmental issues will be noise, air quality, surface transportation, social, socioeconomic and induced socioeconomic, DOT Section 303(c)/Section 4(f) Lands, wetlands, floodplains, farmland, construction and cumulative impacts.



VII. Next Steps

1. Conduct and conclude the Scoping Process. Scoping is the first of many opportunities to comment during the EIS process.
2. Prepare the Draft EIS.
3. Issue and distribute the Draft EIS.
4. Conduct a Public Hearing on the Draft EIS and receive public comments.
5. Prepare the Final EIS based on comments received and distribute the document.
6. Prepare and sign the Record of Decision. The Federal Aviation Administration will evaluate the EIS and any comments prior to making a decision on the Proposed Project.