

## Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport: A Community-Driven Process

### **WORKING DRAFT:**

### **Re-envisioning Process: Community-Based Goals & Recommendations**

#### **Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Charge**

“The CAC will use their local insight and knowledge to understand community concerns and identify new opportunities, such as the creation of local jobs, community beneficial uses, and dedicated open space at the airport.”

*Per LA County Board of Supervisors motion of December 8, 2020*

#### **Overview**

This document is a “working” document that has been and will continue to be refined as the Re-envisioning process concludes over the next few months.

For the purpose of this working document, it is organized in three parts:

**Part 1:** Discussion of long-term scenarios and their influence on recommendations, and

**Part 2:** The draft recommendations themselves.

**Part 3:** Relevant Best Practices to potentially incorporate into these recommendations.

**Please review the information as it is presented and provide any feedback. It’s anticipated that further refinement may include overall format of this document, incorporating additional recommendations (best practices in particular), additional supporting information if needed (key information and factors, current status) and further consolidation to make sure all priority recommendations are included and in the right spot.**

#### **Re-envisioning Working Document DRAFT**

##### ***Part 1: What are the Long-term Scenarios for the Airport?***

The long-term future of Whiteman Airport has been a topic of critical concern throughout this Re-envisioning Process. Discussions and community-based ideas have ranged from full closure of the Airport to keeping the Airport open only for emergency services operations to maintaining the Airport at full operational capability with focused improvements to address identified challenges and needs.

Given the magnitude of these suggestions and the scope of this plan, two potential long-term scenarios for the Airport have been identified for special consideration within this process and throughout the development and evaluation of recommendations. These scenarios were developed with the understanding that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will make the decision on whether or not to pursue the airport closure process given their role as airport owner (known as the “Sponsor”). However, it is the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that holds the ultimate authority and final decision about airport closure. A memo to the Board of Supervisors from the Department of Public Works dated January 25, 2022, provides more detail about the roles and regulatory processes involved. It is available on the project website.

The two long-term scenarios are:

- **Scenario 1: Airport closure is pursued.**
- **Scenario 2: Airport is kept open.**

### **Considering the Influence of the Long-term Scenarios**

The long-term scenarios suggested through this process are likely to directly influence actions to be taken in the short-term as well. This means that it is important to consider how these long-term scenarios may impact the implementation of near-term recommendations addressing community concerns about the Airport, per the motion of the Board of Supervisors.

Under Scenario 1 in which Airport closure would be pursued, a number of community-based recommendations addressing issues and needs in the shorter-term are likely not feasible to implement. It is also important to consider if and how desired long-term outcomes could be accommodated in some way alongside an operational Airport, including suggested land uses.

### **Part 2: Draft Goals & Recommendations**

Based on input and feedback from the CAC and community, this document lists the recommendations for the Re-envisioning Process, categorized under a set of six goals. Listed under each goal is a set of strategies and actions suggested to achieve each goal. Each action listed below considers:

- *Timeframe* – Initial estimate of when a strategy could start. The length of time is estimated by the coordination, approvals, and other steps required to initiate a project.
- *Responsible Party* – initial assessment of the likely party responsible for executing an action.
- *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* – General assessment as to whether the recommendation is affected by the long-term scenario direction to be pursued. The implementation of some strategies and actions will depend on the decision to pursue Airport closure, or otherwise continue Airport operations.
  - NOTE: The most recent version of the Plan Outline would eliminate this question by instead grouping recommendations by two categories – 1) if they can stand alone without regard for the long-term scenarios or 2) if they depend on a specific scenario in order to be pursued and implemented. See Plan Outline for more detail and a flow chart.

### **Draft Goals**

1. Address community noise concerns about the Airport.
2. Address community environmental concerns about the Airport.
3. Address Airport-related safety concerns expressed by the public.
4. Expand and improve Whiteman Airport's community outreach and communication.
5. Stimulate job creation for the local community.
6. Provide amenities and services extending beyond aviation on Airport property to benefit the broader community.

## Draft Recommendations

### GOAL 1: Address community noise concerns about the Airport.

- **Strategy 1.1: Understand noise conditions and make available to public**
  - Action 1.1.1: Share results and findings of completed Airport Noise Contour study (initial screening step).
    - *Timeframe:* Immediate
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? No.*
  - Action 1.2.1: Pursue FAA planning grant for Part 150 Noise Compatibility Plan, including public participation.
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works, FAA
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? Yes.*
- **Strategy 1.2: Pursue noise reduction program for homes**
  - Action 1.2.1: Conduct Part 150 Noise Compatibility plan in order to pursue federal funding for implementation.
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works, FAA
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? Yes.*
  - Action 1.2.2: Implement residential sound insulation program, including window installation and other noise reduction strategies.
    - *Timeframe:* Mid- to Long-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works, FAA
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? Yes.*
- **Strategy 1.3: Reduce noise from aircraft operations**
  - Action 1.3.1: Impose restrictions on the types (i.e. no recreational flights, public-safety only, etc.) or number (annual cap on operations) of flights at Whiteman Airport.
    - *Timeframe:* Long-term
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? Yes.*
  - Action 1.3.1: Explore sound barriers for Whiteman Airport runways.
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? Yes.*
  - Action 1.3.2: Impose a voluntary curfew for non-emergency air traffic.
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? No.*
    - **Note: FAA-imposed curfew may depend on scenario.**
  - Action 1.3.3: Educate pilots that high-revs are not required to achieve liftoffs.
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term

- *Responsible Parties:* LA County Department of Public Works, Airport Commission, various Airport tenants and users
- *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**

**GOAL 2: Address community environmental concerns about the Airport.**

- **Strategy 2.1: Provide information on Airport’s health and safety risks to the community**
  - Action 2.1.1: Share results and findings of completed Aircraft Emissions of Greenhouse Gas analysis.
    - *Timeframe:* Immediate
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
  - Action 2.1.1: Conduct air quality monitoring report.
    - *Timeframe:* Underway - report available to public by December 2022
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
- **Strategy 2.2: Reduce aircraft emissions and exposure to residents.**
  - Action 2.2.1: Pursue use of unleaded fuel.
    - *Timeframe:* Currently being pursued
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **Yes.**
  - Action 2.2.2: Actively support transition to electric aircraft.
    - *Timeframe:*
      - Short-term: Introduce first facilities for electric aircraft
        - One company at Whiteman Airport currently working on electric aircraft, others may follow
      - Mid- to Long-term: Large-scale transition
    - *Responsible Party:* Airport tenants, LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **Yes.**
  - Action 2.2.3: Explore flight path changes with potential to reduce impacts.
    - *Timeframe:* Mid- to Long-term
    - *Responsible Party:* Federal Aviation Administration
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **Yes.**

**GOAL 3: Address Airport-related safety concerns expressed by the public.**

- **Strategy 3.1: Address aircraft maintenance issues and improve safety policies.**
  - Action 3.1.1: Provide additional educational sessions for pilots on safety and make available to public.
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**

- Action 3.1.2: Simplify public access to regulations, policies, and publications promoting safe aircraft operations.
  - *Timeframe:* Short-term
  - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
  - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**

**GOAL 4: Expand and improve Whiteman Airport’s community outreach and communication.**

- **Strategy 4.1: Meaningfully involve Spanish-speaking residents.**
  - Action 4.1.1: Provide translation services at Airport-sponsored programming and public events
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works, various Airport tenants and users
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
  - Action 4.1.2: Publish up-to-date bilingual materials on airport
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works, various Airport tenants and users
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
- **Strategy 4.2: Introduce new channels and programming to communicate and interact with the community.**
  - Action 4.2.1: Expand airport tour program.
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
  - Action 4.2.2: Conduct outreach and share information across a variety of digital platforms (such as Twitter, NextDoor, TikTok, etc.).
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
  - Action 4.2.3: Use a monthly, bilingual newsletter to share news with the community.
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* Various Airport tenants and users
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
- **Strategy 4.3: Improve transparency on matters affecting the community.**
  - Action 4.3.1: Share safety procedures with the community.
    - *Timeframe:* Immediate
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
  - Action 4.3.2: Enhance engagement and communication programs for environmental updates, alerts, and feedback using the channels identified above.

- *Timeframe:* Short-term
- *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
- *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? No.*
- Action 4.3.3: Develop and share information on the Airport's financial status and economic benefits.
  - *Timeframe:* Short-term
  - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
  - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? No.*

**GOAL 5: Stimulate job creation for the local community.**

- **Strategy 5.1: Leverage the Airport's value as an educational resource for the community.**
  - Action 5.1.1: Further promote and improve Airport programs in schools through bilingual outreach.
    - *Timeframe:* Immediate to short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* Various Airport tenants and users; community partnerships
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? No.*
  - Action 5.1.2: Pursue partnership opportunities with Mission College, Valley College, North Valley Education, and local high schools.
    - *Timeframe:* Mid-term
    - *Responsible Parties:* LA County Department of Public Works, Various Airport tenants and users, educational institutions
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? Yes.*
  - Action 5.1.3: Provide additional education and job training, including aviation, by developing training center.
    - *Timeframe:* Long-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works, various stakeholders
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? Yes.*
- **Strategy 5.2: Expand roles and recognition as an employment center in the community.**
  - Action 5.2.1: Host Career Day event(s) at Airport.
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Parties:* Various Airport tenants, users, and stakeholders
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? No.*
  - Action 5.2.2: Involve Airport-based businesses in workforce development efforts to train and hire local residents.
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Parties:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? No.*

**GOAL 6: Provide amenities and services extending beyond aviation on Airport property to benefit the broader community.**

- **Strategy 6.1: Improve the Airport property in ways that contribute positively to community character.**
  - Action 6.1.1: Improve the aesthetic quality of Airport fencing.
    - *Timeframe:* Mid-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
  - Action 6.1.2: Install airport-compatible\* plantings and landscaping on Airport property (\*meaning, vegetation that does not attract birds or other wildlife that pose safety hazards for aircraft.)
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
  - Action 6.1.3: Commission community and culturally themed murals on Airport property.
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
- **Strategy 6.2: Implement access and connectivity-related improvements on Airport property.**
  - Action 6.2.1: Improve pedestrian safety, accessibility and connectivity along Airport boundaries through improved or additional sidewalks
    - *Timeframe:* Mid-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
  - Action 6.2.2: Add improved, bilingual Airport signage in high-visibility areas to promote services, amenities and programs available to the public
    - *Timeframe:* Short-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **No.**
- **Strategy 6.3: Establish new, non-aviation uses on the Airport property.**
  - Action 6.3.1: Conduct redevelopment study, including renderings, of closed Airport property for reuse in a planned manner, potentially including suggested uses such as open space, retail, housing, public services, and office-based or light industrial businesses.
    - *Timeframe:* Long-term
    - *Responsible Party:* TBD
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **Yes.**
  - Action 6.3.2: Create a plaza or public square.
    - *Timeframe:* Mid-term
    - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
    - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action?* **Yes.**

- Action 6.3.3: Provide public viewing area/improve current viewing area.
  - *Timeframe:* Short-term
  - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
  - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? Yes.*
- Action 6.3.4: Provide additional community open space.
  - *Timeframe:* Mid-term
  - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
  - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? Yes.*
- Action 6.3.5: Re-introduce public restaurant/dining at Airport.
  - *Timeframe:* Short to mid-term
  - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
  - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? Yes.*
- Action 6.3.6: Host community farmers market at Airport.
  - *Timeframe:* Short to mid-term
  - *Responsible Party:* LA County Department of Public Works
  - *Does long-term scenario direction affect the feasibility of this action? No.*

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**Part 3: Relevant Best Practices** – *successful actions by other airports/communities to potentially incorporate into Draft Recommendations. Would be included under related goals + strategies.*

1. Improve Airport website and make regular updates.
2. Maintain project website or incorporate into revised Airport website to communicate ongoing updates regarding implementation.
3. Create standing committee for airport-community partnership, communication and connection building.
4. Develop implementation oversight committee for Re-Envisioning Plan.
5. Hold regular (monthly, quarterly) public meetings at the Airport open to the community to demonstrate transparency and to give updates on implementation of this Plan.
6. Explore non-aeronautical (non-aviation) development and supportive aeronautical uses to support economic development, job creation and airport self-sustaining revenue.
7. Invest resources (time, energy, money) to develop consistent communication and connection presence (marketing and outreach) on social media that reaches community (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, TikTok, etc).
8. Regularly provide updates about implementation of this Plan through social media channels.
9. Work with local media to promote community-focused events and information.
10. Organize and promote a regular (monthly, quarterly) meal event (i.e. pancake breakfast) with Airport youth programs for existing programs and to invite others who may want to check it out.
11. Explore adding non-aviation community programming, like a festival or 5k race or concert, with proceeds going to local charitable organizations.
12. Consider holding a free Airport Community Fun Day with activities such as free airplane rides for kids, Young Eagles demonstrations, a fly-over, aircraft displays, helicopter tours, simulators, bounce houses and kids activities, local food vendors and free treats, time to interact with local emergency personnel, etc. Explore partnering with LA Fire for event to expand understanding.
13. Coordinate with state or local chapter of Women in Aviation to hold “Girls in Aviation Day” that includes activities, flight lessons, and career exploration for girls and their families. A similar program could be pursued with other underrepresented groups in aviation, such as the Hispanic Pilots Association. Consider making these annual events.
14. Pursue frequent opportunities for airport and community partners to collaborate with other local and regional airports and their community committees for idea sharing, mutual learning, and connection