

PREFACE

SUPERIOR AIRPORT MASTER PLAN - 2001



INTRODUCTION

The Gannett Fleming, Inc. Airport Development Group was retained by the Town of Superior, Arizona to prepare a comprehensive Airport Master Plan Study for an airport to serve the Superior area.

The Master Plan project includes the following major elements:

PHASE I: A Feasibility Study was undertaken. This phase of the work evaluated the need (demand) for an airport in the Superior area. As part of the initial planning work, the following questions were addressed and recommendations presented:

- *What is the probable aviation demand in the Superior area?*
- *What type of airport would be required to accommodate this demand?*
- *Is improvement or development of an airport of this type economically feasible?*
- *Is the present Superior Municipal Airport a viable development site?*
- *Can other existing airports accommodate the demand of the Superior area?*
- *Should a new development site be sought and compared with development at the present site?*

Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this document comprise the Feasibility Study.

Based on the results of the Feasibility Study, the Town decided to proceed with the following phases of the planning process.

PHASE II: The Feasibility Study indicated that an airport should be developed. Therefore, a Site Selection Study was conducted. The following is a summary of the work elements included in this phase:

- *Define a search area.*
- *Identify several potential airport development sites within the search area, including definition of development options for the Existing Site.*

- Perform an initial comparative evaluation of the sites, addressing general engineering, access, utility, economic, safety, environmental, and airspace issues.
- Select 2 or 3 of the original sites for further evaluation.
- Perform a detailed comparative evaluation of the final tier of potential sites.
- Select a final development site.
- Analyze various methods of managing the airport (Airport Authority, management by the Town, Town/County intergovernmental agreement, etc.).

Section 4 of this document comprises the Site Selection Study. In a regular session of the Superior Town Council, the Town decided to continue with site-specific planning for one of the proposed relocation sites (Site #11).

PHASE III: After selection of the best development site, detailed site-specific planning was initiated to complete the Airport Master Plan.

In the Master Plan study, analysis was made of the factors affecting the future development of the airport, and recommendations are presented which, when implemented, will assure that the airport will develop consistent with the demand placed upon it, and with the goals of the Town of Superior, Pinal County, and other communities that might be affected.

The twenty-one year planning period of the Master Plan covers calendar years 2001 through 2020, inclusive.

PHASE IV: Finally, after adoption of this Master Plan, detailed site-specific environmental analysis will be initiated. An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared, in accordance with FAA Order 5050.4A.

The initial scoping portion of the EA has been conducted concurrent with preparation of the Master Plan in order to avoid surprises and to expedite completion of the planning process. This overview of Environmental Factors is contained in Section 5 of this document.

PROJECT APPROACH - THE PAC PROCESS

The master planning process utilized the "Planning Advisory Committee" (or PAC) team approach. PAC team members are persons who are interested in the outcome of the airport planning process, and who are willing and able to commit the time and resources necessary to provide timely review of all information submitted by the Consultant.

The Superior Airport PAC members included representatives from a cross section of the community who will be affected by the outcome of the Master Plan. The Consultant team and an ADOT - Aeronautics representative also served on the PAC team as non-voting, advisory members. The PAC participants were:

- Michael O. Hing Town Council Member
- J. Howard Downs Resident - Gold Canyon, AZ
- Manny Ruiz Town Council Member
- Kenneth J. Cook Resident - Superior, AZ
- Doris Warcola President - Superstition Foothills, Inc.
- Yolanda Najera Ewing Town Council Member
- Roy Chavez Manager, Town of Superior
- Ray Boucher ADOT - Aeronautics
- Nicholas J. Pela Gannett Fleming, Inc.
- Ronald D. Schreier, PE Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Review of the Master Plan documents by the PAC was undertaken on a progressive basis during the project term. Each PAC member began with an empty notebook (the PAC Workbook). As each phase of the Plan was completed by the Consultant, draft Working Papers were prepared and copies were distributed to each PAC member for review.

PAC meetings were scheduled at key points in the planning process in order to discuss and ultimately approve each planning element Working Paper, as submitted by the Consultant. The PAC members were individually responsible for timely review of the information, and for active participation in each PAC meeting.

As each progressive element of the planning document was completed by the Consultant team and approved by the PAC, it became a part of the PAC Workbook. When all elements of the work were completed, the PAC Workbook was approved and became the final Master Plan.

The following page contains an illustration of the PAC Process.

Superior Airport Master Plan

The PAC Working Process

