

Chapter 1- Introduction

Airport Planning Study Program

The Grand Canyon National Park Airport Master Plan has been initiated by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), Aeronautics Division (Airport Owner) to assess the current and future airport role, and to provide direction and guidance regarding future airport development priorities. The preparation of the Airport Master Plan Update is evidence that ADOT recognizes the importance of aviation in the overall concept of community and transportation planning within the Northern Arizona and Coconino County Region.

Study Objectives

The airport master planning program provides an objective look at future airport needs based on a comprehensive review of design considerations. In addition, the plan addresses several issues pertaining to the role and function of the Airport, including:

- ✦ Current and future airport role and service level.
- ✦ Existing airport facilities, equipment and operating conditions.
- ✦ Local and regional socio-economic characteristics, trends and development patterns.
- ✦ Forecast levels of aeronautical activity from current and potential users.
- ✦ Immediate and long-term airport facility requirements, and design alternatives.
- ✦ Preferred long-term airfield, terminal area and access development strategy.
- ✦ Commercial opportunities at the Airport, and infrastructure needs.
- ✦ Coordination of land use control measures to preserve surrounding environment and protect the airport infrastructure.
- ✦ Environmental consequences for proposed airport development.
- ✦ Estimate project costs associated with the development program.
- ✦ Identify operational and management needs to implement planning goals.
- ✦ Develop a financing program to meet needs of the Capital Improvement Program.

The Airport Master Plan will identify a schedule of needs that are consistent with current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) design standards and airspace criteria and ADOT aviation policy standards. The approved Airport Master Plan enables ADOT to implement improvement projects in a coordinated fashion and apply for airport development grants for eligible items depicted on the updated Grand Canyon National Park Airport Layout Plan (ALP) drawings.

When approved by the various local, regional, state, and federal agencies, the study represents the long-term intentions and goals regarding the location, extent, and timing of airport capital improvements. This permits more effective long-range programming and



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budgeting, reduces review and approval periods, and provides for orderly and timely development in a coordinated fashion.

Overall, the airport study will provide the basis for an airport facility that is:

- ✦ Safe, efficient and developed in accordance with FAA/ ADOT design standards;
- ✦ Economically viable and substantially user-supported; and
- ✦ In concert with broad local, regional, state, and national goals regarding grant programming and funding levels, as well as prioritized capital improvement and development.

Planning Study Agreement/ Funding

In January 2003, Kimley-Horn Associates, Phoenix AZ, entered into a consultant's agreement with ADOT for the preparation of an Airport Master Plan Update for the Grand Canyon National Park Airport. Bucher, Willis & Ratliff Corporation was selected to assist Kimley-Horn Associates in this planning effort. The Master Plan study has been funded with a 90 percent grant from FAA and the remaining 10 percent match is provided by ADOT, Aeronautics Division.

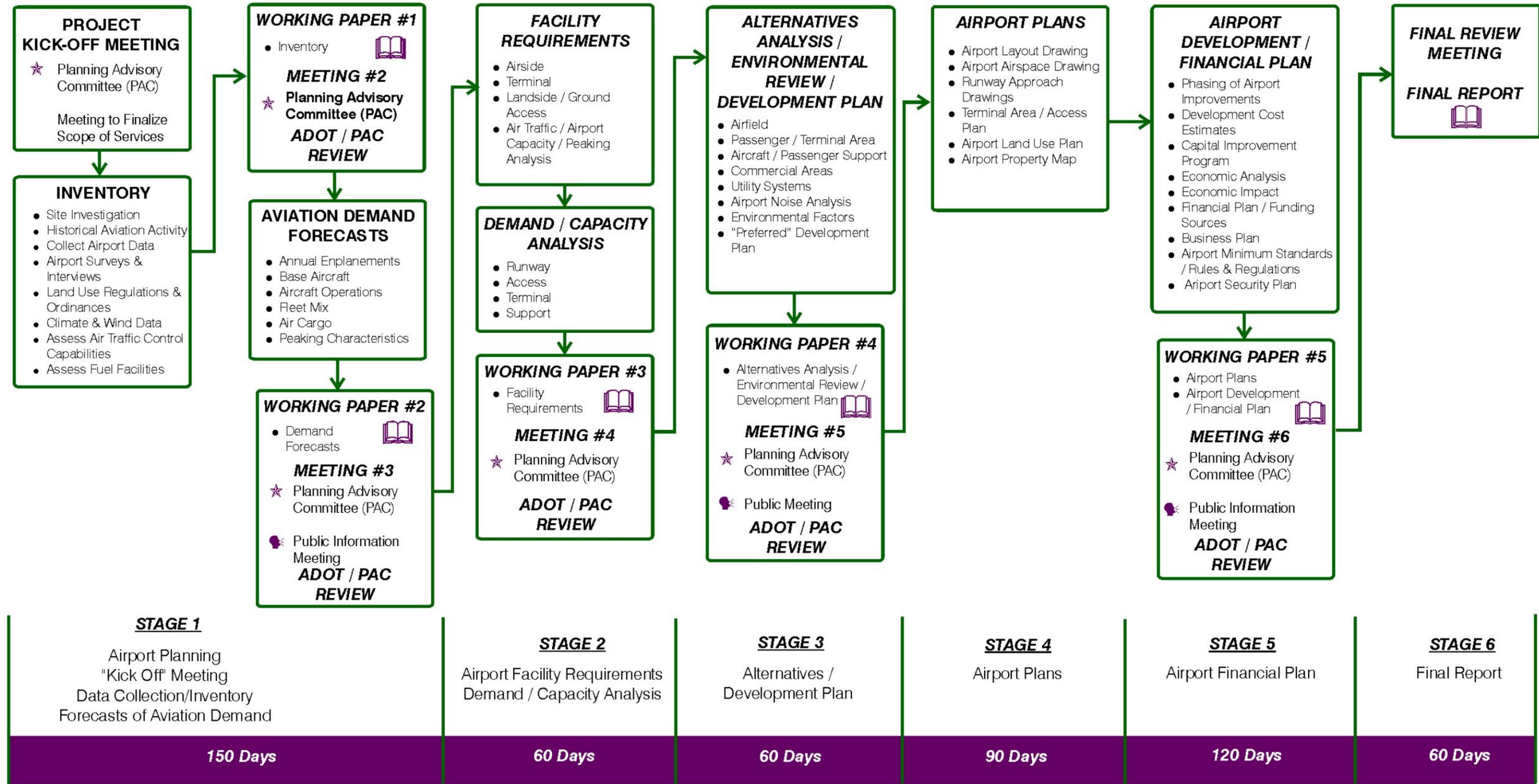
Airport Study Phases and Documentation

Exhibit 1.1 identifies each element and major task associated with the Grand Canyon National Park Airport Master Plan Update. The Grand Canyon National Park Airport Master Plan study is being conducted in separate phases, including several working papers and airport meetings. This strategy allows for input from all participants, and airport users. This schedule also permits the formal review and discussion of findings, and coordination with the various government organizations, planning councils, local government constituents, and federal and state review agencies. This process, which is responsive to local issues while being inclusive of more broad regional issues, allows the opportunity for local coordination regarding specific development priorities.

In addition, the process is designed to provide an objective look at the future airport role, and intended to permit ADOT to achieve a workable course of action for future capital airport development. For the plan to be successfully approved, the following criteria must be met:

- ✦ Accurate data and analysis must be provided to bring about a consensus on the most desirable course of action or alternative concept;
- ✦ The airport improvements must be economically and financially feasible to develop, provide an adequate level of public services to the area, and meet state and FAA design criteria for grant eligibility; and

Project Approach & Schedule



Total Timeframe = 540 Days

Note: Timeframe is exclusive of County / ADOT / PAC Review.



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- ✦ The nature of development is to be accomplished at minimum cost to the user and non-user alike, without detrimental effects on the environment, and in concert with prevailing local, regional, state, and federal goals and programming plans.

Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) Overview and Function

The coordination and participation program is aimed at encouraging public awareness of the airport planning and development process, and the costs and benefits associated with airport improvements. As a strategic planning process, the airport study is tailored to be responsive to local issues, while at the same time, inclusive of additional broad regional issues. Additionally, this process is used to educate the public regarding compatible land use issues and airport needs, while soliciting feedback from the public concerning interim study conclusions and recommendations. The program also identifies business factors relating to commercial and general aviation activity.

Planning Advisory Committee

An Airport Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) has been assembled as part of the Airport Master Plan study to facilitate airport planning coordination at the local level. The PAC committee, as appointed by ADOT, is comprised of various airport and community constituents representing a broad range of internal and external interests unique to the Grand Canyon National Park Airport.

Role of the Airport PAC

Overall, the role of the PAC and purpose of the review of the multiple working papers and alternatives of the scheduled airport meetings are to:

- ✦ Provide a forum by which airport patrons and tenants, airport businesses, public interest groups, and civic organizations desiring to be identified with the social and economic progress of the region can participate in the airport planning process;
- ✦ Review, respond and disseminate information for each stage (working paper and technical airport meeting) of the Airport Master Plan study;
- ✦ Provide input to the airport consultants and the ADOT regarding airport development priorities and schedules; and
- ✦ Identify a preferred course of action regarding capital airport development and expansion based on the Master Plan study findings and recommendations.

Pertinent input and comments received from and provided by the Airport Planning Advisory Committee during the completion of the Master Plan study including public meetings or through review of working papers, will receive the full consideration of the consultants and ADOT and will be incorporated into the Airport Master Plan study narrative report(s) as appropriate.



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