

# Chapter 1.0 Introduction



**BROOKSVILLE - TAMPA BAY REGIONAL AIRPORT  
& TECHNOLOGY CENTER**



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INTERNATIONAL

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Overview**

In November 2013, Hernando County contracted with Michael Baker Jr., Inc. to develop a Master Plan Update for the Brooksville-Tampa Bay Regional Airport (BKV). The need for this update was essentially twofold. The primary reason being the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires airports receiving development grants to conduct periodic updates to their future development plan. Secondly, over the past several years many changes have occurred at the airport and in the aviation industry that prompted the need to reassess the airport's anticipated growth and 20-year airport capital improvement plans.

The purpose of the master plan document is to identify in detail the justifications, methodologies, and reasoning for the developments shown within the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) drawing set. In addition to grant funding, the airport's master plan serves a variety of functions including projecting future aviation activity, being a tool for financial planning, and guiding adjacent land uses. The primary planning objective of this Master Plan Update was to create a 20-year development program that would maintain a safe, efficient, economical, and environmentally acceptable airport facility for Hernando County. By achieving this objective, the document should provide guidance to satisfy aviation demand in a financially feasible and responsible manner, while at the same time addressing the aviation, environmental, and socioeconomic issues of the community.

The airport does not exist in a static environment, but rather within the context of a larger community. As such, any future developments identified by this study considered potential impacts to the community. Multiple opportunities were available for community and governmental representatives to participate in this study. This involvement was facilitated through the formulation of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and was furthermore presented and discussed in an open forum at community workshop/public meetings and also at Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meetings. It is important to note that the study results and the future developments presented in this report represent a plan to guide the airport and the BOCC in meeting demands as they develop; therefore, no development should be undertaken until there is a clearly identified need for it.

Although the development of a master plan and associated ALP drawing set serves many objectives, one of the most significant purposes of this study is to allow the airport to meet federal assurances for grant funding eligibility. In 1982, the federal government adopted the Airport and Airway Improvement Act; this act allowed federal funds to be distributed through a grant program to airports throughout the country. These federal grants did not require repayment provided that certain rules were followed and adhered to (i.e., assurances). Over the years, the grant legislation has been revised, renamed, and expanded to presently include 39 separate assurances that must be met in order to be considered "compliant." The current grant program, referred to as the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), provides grant funding to cover a significant portion of the costs required to address airport safety, capacity, security, or environmental concerns. Grant Assurance Number 29 states that the airport sponsor will develop and maintain an ALP which denotes the airport's boundaries along with all existing and proposed development within. The ALP and any revision or modification thereof must be reviewed and approved via signature by an authorized representative of the Secretary.

## **1.2 Key Issues**

The overall goal of an airport master plan is to provide guidelines for future airport development that will satisfy aviation demand in a cost-effective, feasible manner while addressing aviation, environmental, and socioeconomic issues of the community. The Master Plan Update will provide Hernando County with a comprehensive overview of the airport's needs over the next 20 years and will include the identification, location, timing, and costs of proposed developments as necessary to meet future demand projections or to increase safety. In an effort to develop a more financially sustainable plan, the planning effort will utilize the results of an Airport Business Plan which is being conducted in concert with the Master Plan Update. The Business Plan will be designed to provide relevant guidance to Hernando County for facilitating the business of the airport in serving its existing and future tenants, users, and the community.

Some of the specific issues to be evaluated as part of this master plan process are delineated below, and specific tasks were incorporated into the study in an effort to address these considerations. This is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of items that require consideration within the study, but rather identifies major concerns or issues that should be addressed in support of Hernando County's long-term airport goals. Some specific goals and objectives to be considered include:

- ➔ Assess the operational efficiency, effectiveness, and safety of the airport.
- ➔ Evaluate the airport facility layout for conformance with FAA guidance and regulations.
- ➔ Evaluate and incorporate the aviation needs of the both the community and users.
- ➔ Assess the needs of current tenants and requirements necessary to attract new tenants and/or to expand their facilities.
- ➔ Assist the airport in supporting aviation demand within the region.
- ➔ Identify existing and alternative funding sources for airport development.
- ➔ Identify areas of environmental concern and provide mitigation options for future development.
- ➔ Evaluate long-term development options for general aviation and airport support facilities.
- ➔ Review the airport's existing and ultimate runway length requirements to identify any improvements necessary to meet demand and/or to entice additional traffic to the airport in the future.
- ➔ Identify vertical obstructions and investigate the associated impacts and/or mitigation options.

### **Process**

This Master Plan Update provides a systematic outline of the development actions required to maintain and further develop airfield and landside facilities. This process provides the officials responsible for the scheduling, budgeting, and ultimate funding of airport improvement projects with advanced notice of the future needs of the airport. By phasing the airport improvements, the development can be conducted in an orderly and timely fashion.

In order to accomplish Hernando County's long-term development goals for BKV, this Master Plan Update was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the FAA and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). All portions of this document are based on the criteria set forth in the FAA AC 150/5070-6B, Airport Master Plans, AC 150/5300-13A, Airport Design, FDOT Guidebook for Airport Master Planning, and Chapter 14-60 FAC – Airport Licensing, Registration and Airspace Protection. The following study tasks were performed for this effort:

- Conducted an inventory of the existing documents related to the airport, the physical airport facilities, the demographics of the airport service area, and the airport environment.
- Evaluated and compared the airfield capacity to the expected aviation activity.
- Determined the airport facilities required to meet the forecast demand.
- Developed and evaluated alternative methods to meet the facility requirements of the airfield.
- Developed a concise ALP drawing set that reflects proposed 20-year improvements.
- Compiled a schedule of the proposed improvements to include the cost estimates, phasing, and financial feasibility of each.

Reviews of this Master Plan Update report were conducted at key points such as at the completion of the forecasts and during the development of the alternatives. This ensured that input was received from important stakeholders such as the TAC, BOCC, FAA, FDOT, and the general public. The individual report chapters provide detailed explanations of these key steps. It should be noted that each step in the master plan process is built upon information and decisions made during previous steps. Taken as a whole, they address the key issues identified above and show how the study objective was met.