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# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Goals and Objectives of a Master Plan

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An Airport Master Plan presents both short-term and long-term development for an airport and graphically displays and reports data and logic upon which proposed development is based.

The goal of a Master Plan is to provide guidelines for future airport development, which will satisfy aviation demand in a cost-effective, feasible manner, while resolving aviation, environmental, and socioeconomic issues of the community.

The objectives are attainable targets that are action oriented and designed to address specific elements consistent with attainment of the goal. The objectives for the Concord-Padgett Regional Airport (JQF or the Airport) are based on an initial evaluation of the Airport and its surrounding environs and meetings with Airport and City of Concord staff; Airport tenants; elected officials; and the general public.

As information is developed during data-gathering efforts, objectives for the Airport Master Plan should be flexible to assure an objective basis for the final product. The specific goals and objectives for JQF are to:

- Meet the aviation needs of the community and customers
- Prepare a Master Plan Update and Airport Layout Plan (ALP) drawing set
- Protect and enhance community land use goals and regional aviation needs
- Evaluate current land uses adjacent to JQF to prohibit encroachment, which could hinder future growth
- Evaluate existing airport infrastructure and make recommendations for future development
- Evaluate the facility layout for compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) *Advisory Circular 150/5300-13A – Airport Design* (as amended)<sup>2</sup>
- Ensure that any short-term actions and recommendations do not preclude long-term planning objectives
- Optimize the operational efficiency, effectiveness, and safety of JQF
- Establish the framework for a continuous planning process

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<sup>2</sup>Federal Aviation Administration, “Advisory Circular 150/5300-13A – Airport Design; Change 1,” February 26, 2014, <<http://www.faa.gov/>>, accessed October 13, 2017.

- Continue to meet the needs of JQF tenants and help expand and attract new tenants
- Ensure that JQF continues in its role of supporting the economy of the City of Concord and Cabarrus County

## 1.2 Purpose of the Concord-Padgett Regional Airport Master Plan Update

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An update to the JQF Airport Master Plan is being initiated by the City of Concord (the City) to provide direction and guidance regarding airport sustainability for future airport development priorities and justification for improvements. The Airport Master Plan Update will reassess planned development with respect to recent activity trends and economic indicators. Above all, the update follows federal and state policy in providing for a facility that is:

- Safe and efficient in accordance with airport design standards
- Economically viable and substantially user-supported
- In accordance with local, regional, state, and national goals
- Providing customers with safe, secure, and service-oriented operations

An evaluation of JQF facility needs will be completed for a 20-year planning period. The Airport Master Plan Update will comprehensively examine land use and facility requirements, emergency operations in the event of a natural disaster, and viable commercial service. The JQF ALP will depict these improvements, as adopted by the City of Concord and accepted by the FAA and North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Aviation (NCDOT-DOA). The approved ALP will enable the City to apply for funding for improvements, as eligible under the respective federal and state airport grant-in-aid programs.

### 1.2.1 Key Issues

Overall, the goal of the Airport Master Plan Update is to identify the orderly development of facilities essential to meeting the needs of the airport's users. Major study objectives include:

- Security, safety, service, and economic viability at JQF
- Evaluate airfield and airspace capacity
- Identify and create a plan to provide for the needs of JQF customers, users, and stakeholders
- Create a plan to ensure that JQF continues to be an economic engine for the City of Concord and Cabarrus County

- Identify and describe future airport land acquisition
- Determine priority and best use of undeveloped airport property and future acquisitions
- Conduct a preliminary environmental overview of the proposed development

## 1.2.2 Airport Layout Plans

With the support of the previous analyses, a series of drawings are provided depicting JQF and proposed changes over the next 20 years. The principal drawing in the set of drawings is the ALP. The complete set of drawings is as follows:

- ALP
- Terminal Area Plan (TAP)
- Airport Airspace Drawing (Part 77)
- Inner Portion Approach Surface Drawing
- Runway Departure Surfaces Drawing
- Runway Centerline Plan and Profile Drawing
- Land Use Plan
- Exhibit 'A' (property map)

## 1.3 City of Concord

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The City of Concord is located in the western half of Cabarrus County. As the largest municipality in Cabarrus County in both land area and population, Concord's population represents nearly half of the County's total population. With Concord being a part of the larger metropolitan region anchored by the City of Charlotte, it is within proximity to uptown Charlotte and other regional employment, shopping and entertainment centers. Interstate 85 (I-85) traverses the City's northern border, making Concord easily accessible. The I-485 Outer Loop provides links throughout the metropolitan region and completion of the final sections of the Outer Loop has improved Concord's connection to the I-77 corridor, a key route to mid-west and northern states, as well as to central Charlotte, and Rock Hill and Columbia, South Carolina. Concord's Regional Airport is the fourth busiest airport in the State with Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (CLT), one of the top-rated airports in the nation, is only 30 miles south of Concord.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>City of Concord Economic Development, "Community Profile," <<http://www.concordnc.gov/Departments/Economic-Development/Community-Profile>>, accessed October 13, 2017.