

City Council Report

Date: September 12, 2022

To: City Council

Through: Scott J. Butler, Assistant City Manager

- From: Corinne Nystrom, Airport Director
- Subject: Falcon Field Airport Design Midfield Crossover Taxiways, and Realignment of Taxiways D3, D4, D7, and D8 City of Mesa Project No. CP0994 City Council District No. 5

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution, which authorizes the City Manager, or his designated representative, to execute an Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grant Agreement, with the unique funding component from the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)*, between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the City of Mesa (City), to design midfield crossover taxiways east and west, and realign taxiways D3, D4, D7, and D8 at Falcon Field Airport (Airport). The Grant Agreement includes the costs for design only.

Background

As part of the Airport Capital Improvement Program, and in compliance with the City's Airport Master Plan, City staff are proposing the design of two (2) midfield crossover taxiway exits for Runway 4L/22R. Also, and in accordance with FAA requirements, this design project will bring exit taxiways D3, D4, D7, and D8 into full compliance. This is a design only project and is included in the approved City Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY2022-23.

Discussion

Currently, aircraft landing on Runway 4L/22R can only exit either in the middle or at the two ends of the runway. Also, they can only exit the runway to the north if they want to exit midfield. This project will improve operational safety and efficiency by allowing aircraft to exit the runway to the south, as well. It will also help reduce the amount of time arriving aircraft will occupy the active runway by exiting sooner and without significantly reducing speed or stopping on the runway.

Additionally, landing aircraft will not be required to taxi around Runway 4R/22L to their destination on the south side of the airport. This factor will reduce radio transmissions between air traffic control and pilots, thus improving safety by decreasing the chance of mistaken communications, as well as reducing taxiing time and fuel consumption.

Community Impact

There is no anticipated impact to the neighboring community from this project.

Alternatives

The first alternative is to decline the FAA's grant offer and not execute the Grant Agreement. In this case, the City would delay the project to a later date. This is not the recommended option. The second, and recommended alternative, is to approve the Resolution and authorize the City Manager, or his designated representative, to sign the Grant Agreement so that grant funds become available.

Fiscal Impact

The total cost of this design project is \$382,378. The amount of combined federal (\$291,392) and state (\$14,304) funding is \$305,696. The City will pay the remaining estimated amount of \$76,682 with funds from the Falcon Field Airport Enterprise Fund. The Airport has budgeted \$320,000 for this project. (District 5)

Coordinated With

Airport staff has been coordinating this project with the City Engineering Department, and they are supportive of this project.