



Airport Master Plan

KANSAS CITY WHEELER DOWNTOWN AIRPORT



OVERVIEW

The Kansas City Wheeler Downtown Airport (MKC) is a nationally ranked facility known for its high-quality service and unique features. MKC is one of the busiest airports in Missouri, serving approximately 700 aircraft operations each day ranging from small, single-engine piston aircraft to large business jets. The airport is used primarily for corporate and charter activity, recreational flying, flight training, air cargo, and medevac operations. With its location in the heart of downtown, MKC is conveniently and centrally located to many of the amenities the city has to offer. The master plan for MKC has been initiated to provide proper guidance for existing and future development, which will satisfy aviation demands while maintaining compatibility with the surrounding environment and community.

WHAT IS AN AIRPORT MASTER PLAN?

The MKC Master Plan provides an evaluation of the airport's aviation demand and an overview of the systematic airport development that will best meet those demands. The master plan establishes development objectives and provides a 20-year planning period that details specific study elements including airfield configuration, facility development, on-airport land use development recommendations, and support facilities.

The MKC Airport Master Plan has been undertaken to evaluate the airport's capabilities and role, to forecast future aviation demand, and to plan for the timely development of new or expanded facilities that may be required to meet that demand. The goal of the master plan is to provide systematic guidelines for the airport's overall maintenance, development, and operation. The master plan is intended to be a proactive document which identifies and then plans for future facility needs well in advance of the actual need. This is done to ensure that the Kansas City Aviation Department (KCAD) can coordinate project approvals, design, financing, and construction in a timely manner, prior to experiencing the detrimental effects of inadequate facilities.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF UPDATING THE MASTER PLAN?

The FAA recommends that airports update their master plan every 7 to 10 years, or as necessary, to address local changes. It serves as a tool for evaluating airport improvement priorities as well as justifying the need for federal and state funding assistance. The last master plan prepared for MKC was completed in 2004. This master plan update is a necessary evaluation of the airport's current conditions, improvement needs, and its impact on the local economy as well as its value related to the national airspace system since the previous study.

SPECIFIC MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES FOR MKC ARE:

- Maintain and ensure safety and security for the airport.
- Plan for phased, incremental development that meets foreseeable aviation demand and maintains flexibility for change.
- Evaluate potential airfield modifications to meet FAA safety design standards and projected operational demand
- Produce airport layout plan (ALP) drawings consistent with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards that can be utilized in determining grant eligibility and funding.
- Incorporate sustainability and environmental best practices into recommended plans

HOW WILL FUTURE AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS BE FUNDED?

The Kansas City Aviation Department is responsible for funding capital improvements at the airport, as well as obtaining FAA and Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) Aviation development grants. Additionally, the KCAD oversees private entities' facility enhancements and infrastructure development on airport property to ensure compliance with federal, state, and local regulations.

The master plan provides guidance for future development and justification for funding airport projects through the FAA's Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP). The City of Kansas City recognizes the importance of air transportation to the community as well as the associated challenges inherent in maintaining a safe and efficient airport environment. The cost of maintaining an airport is an investment which yields impressive benefits to the community. With a sound and realistic master plan, MKC can maintain its role as an important link to the national air transportation system for the community and maintain the existing public and private investments in its facilities.

WHEN WILL THESE IMPROVEMENTS BE BUILT?

Improvements are made as necessary to maintain a safe and efficient airport environment. Aviation demand dictates the types of projects that are required to maintain the airport's compliance with federal safety standards for the types of operations conducted on the airport. The master plan serves as a road map for potential future development as need would dictate. The KCAD will continually monitor aviation activity to determine whether it is tracking as projected and which projects from the master plan should be programmed.

WHO IS CONDUCTING THE STUDY?

The City of Kansas City, Missouri has contracted with the airport planning firm of Coffman Associates, Inc. to undertake the airport master plan. Coffman Associates is an airport consulting firm that specializes in master planning and environmental studies. The study is prepared in accordance with FAA requirements.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Public coordination and communication are organized to provide opportunities to inform the public on the master plan process. Working papers are prepared at various milestones in the planning process. A series of Planning Advisory Committee meetings and Public Workshops are also planned during the process to discuss study findings. Also, a master plan study website is available to view the progress of the study as the process is taking place.

If you have additional questions about the MKC Master Plan, please contact:

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To learn more about the master plan and to provide input, please visit:

<http://mkc.airportstudy.net>

