

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND NOTICE OF COMBINED PUBLIC HEARING/INFORMATION WORKSHOP**

Notice of Impacts to Wetlands and Floodplains in Accordance with Section 2(a)(f) of Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management; Section 2(b) of EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands; and Section 7 DOT Order 5650.2, Floodplain Management and Protection

The City of Lakeland (City) announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Phase II of Air Cargo Facility Development at Lakeland Linder International Airport (LAL) in Polk County, Florida. Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) of 1969, the Draft EA is being circulated for review and comment from the public and federal, state and local agencies. Comments from federal, state and local agencies, and the public, will be considered as part of the Final EA. The Final EA will be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the agency's environmental determination.

Proposed Development Project: The proposed cargo facility development, referred to in the Draft EA as the Proposed Development Project, expands the Phase I air cargo facility that became operational at LAL in 2020. The proposed facility expansion includes additional sortation and office building, truck court, and vehicle parking. The Proposed Development Project also expands the aircraft parking apron to accommodate three additional aircraft parking positions and equipment staging for additional flight activities. A new airport access road would be required to provide access to the Phase II facilities via Drane Field Road. A new fuel farm is also proposed to accommodate the need for additional aviation fueling capacity.

The EA discusses the Proposed Development Project, alternatives, and environmental effects in areas including air quality, biological resources, hazardous materials, cultural resources, noise, socioeconomics, and water resources. The Proposed Development Project will affect approximately 25 acres of wetlands and approximately 28 acres of 100-year floodplains. The Proposed Project includes mitigation measures for unavoidable impacts to these resources.

Draft EA Availability: An electronic copy of the Draft EA is available for public review at <https://www.flylakeland.com/airport-projects>. Both hard copies and electronic copies will also be displayed for inspection and review at the following locations:

Larry R. Jackson Branch Library
1700 N Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33805

eLibrary South Lakeland
4740 S Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33813

Lakeland Linder International
Airport,
Airport Terminal
3900 Don Emerson Drive, Suite 210
Lakeland, FL 33811

Combined Public Hearing and Information Workshop: The public is invited to attend a combined in-person Public Hearing and Information Workshop on May 27, 2021. The purpose of the combined Public Hearing and Information Workshop is to receive and consider public comments on the social, economic and environmental effects of the Proposed Development Project. The Public Information Workshop portion of the proceedings will begin at 6:00 PM, where representatives of the City will be available to answer questions in an open house format and receive verbal/written comments. The Public Hearing will convene at 7:00 PM, where attendees will hear a short presentation and be given opportunity to make an official public statement for the hearing record, to be transcribed by a court reporter.

Meeting information is as follows:

DATE / TIME:
Thursday, May 27, 2021
Public Information Workshop 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Public Hearing begins at 7:00 PM

LOCATION:
RP Funding Center
Sikes Hall Room K
701 W Lime St
Lakeland, FL 33815

Due to ongoing public health protections and limitations on gatherings to limit the spread of COVID-19, adherence to face covering and social distancing practices are required for meeting attendees.

How to Comment: Written comments on the Draft EA will be accepted by mail, email, and/or in person at the Public Workshop/Public Hearing. Mailed comments should be postmarked no later than **May 31, 2021** and addressed to:

Lakeland Linder International Airport
Attention: Gene Conrad, Airport Director
3900 Don Emerson Drive, Suite 210
Lakeland, FL 33811

Comments may also be submitted via email to Gene.Conrad@lakelandgov.net. Requests for reasonable accommodation with obtaining the document for review, and/or for registering comments, can also be made to this address. All comments will be carefully reviewed and considered in a Final EA prior to FAA rendering an environmental determination on the Proposed Development Project.

Please note that comments can only be accepted with the full name and address of the all entities commenting. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, it cannot be guaranteed that it will be withheld.

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