



## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to develop an Airport Master Plan Update (AMPU) for Groton-New London Airport (GON<sup>1</sup>), located in Groton, Connecticut.

An airport master plan is a comprehensive study of an airport that describes the short-, medium-, and long-term development plans to meet future aviation demand.

The goal of any master plan is to provide the 20-year framework needed to guide future airport development that will cost-effectively satisfy aviation demand, while considering potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts.

Master planning studies that address major revisions are commonly referred to as “Master Plans”, while those that change only parts of the existing document and require a relatively low level of effort tend to be known as “Master Plan Updates.” The GON project is an update, which will include the following elements:

- Pre-planning
- Public Involvement
- Environmental Considerations
- Existing Conditions
- Aviation Forecasts
- Facility Requirements
- Alternatives Development and Evaluation
- Airport Layout Plans
- Facilities Implementation Plan
- Financial Feasibility Analysis

Meeting existing and future demand is the ultimate goal of a master plan. That is, does the airport have now and will it have in the future, adequate capacity to meet this demand? The capacity/demand relationship is important because with the exception of safety related changes, all capacity changes are demand based; meaning that infrastructure changes, unless they are safety driven, are generally not made until the demand justifies the change.

This update will replace the current AMPU completed in 1999. This planning study will consider the possible environmental and socioeconomic costs associated with alternative development concepts, and the possible means of avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating impacts to sensitive resources at the appropriate level of detail for facilities planning. Additionally, more detailed engineering and

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<sup>1</sup> GON is the official Federal Aviation Administration identifier for the Groton-New London Airport. For international purposes the identifier is KGON.

environmental analysis and documentation may be required in order to implement some of the recommendations of this update.

This update will focus on changes that have occurred since the last AMPU, and how these changes affect the airport's current and future capacity and demand. The report will be a revision, or "update" to both the 1999 Technical Report (master plan) and the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) drawing set, which is a legal requirement for airports that receive Federal assistance.

In addition to preparation of the Technical Report and ALP, this project will produce an Executive Summary, which will bring together pertinent facts, conclusions, and recommendations for public review, and a Web page that provides ongoing details about the study for easy public access. The AMPU Web site is: [www.groton-newlondonairport-ampu.org](http://www.groton-newlondonairport-ampu.org).

## **AMPU OBJECTIVES**

A successful airport master plan can be easily comprehended, is acceptable to the many airport stakeholders, addresses community concerns and can be implemented in a series of practical stages to meet realistic financial and schedule constraints. To this end, the objective of this master plan update is to provide achievable goals and guidance for future airport development to the community and GON. Ideally, the goals will meet aviation demand; the community will accept them; they will be environmentally compatible; and they will coordinate with other modes of local, state, and national transportation.

The adoption of the Master Plan will be the momentum for making decisions regarding the following:

- The determination of the best feasible alternative for developing airport facilities that serve current and future airport users.
- The justification and time frame for future runway, taxiway, terminal area and landside improvements. These improvements include upgrading the terminal building, hangars, aircraft parking aprons, vehicular parking, and fueling facilities.
- An economic impact analysis that will compile economic, socio-economic and demographic data to accurately depict the value of the airport to the affected communities.
- The development of runway safety areas to meet the required FAA design standards.
- The determination of instrument approach minimum requirements needed to meet current and projected aviation demand and to maximize aviation safety.
- The prioritization of the improvements as they pertain to the financial capability of GON, ConnDOT, and the FAA.
- Other recommended development that will contribute to safer and efficient airport operations.
- The determination of physical facility developments as they relate to immediate planning (0-5 years), intermediate (5-10 years) and future planning (10-20 years), and financial costs for these improvements.

**WORKING PAPERS**

The Technical Report contains the results of the analyses conducted during the development of the master plan. For this study, interim reports will be produced to facilitate coordination with ConnDOT, FAA, and other government agencies, tenants, users, the public, and other interested parties. These interim reports, referred to as Working Papers are assembled at the conclusion of the study into the final Master Plan Report.

This is the first of four papers that presents the baseline conditions (inventory) and forecasts. The remaining three papers cover the following AMPU components:

- Paper #2 - Demand Capacity/Facility Requirements
- Paper #3 - Alternatives
- Paper #4 - Environmental Overview and Financial Plans

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