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## October 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** Chair Overcash called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Chair Overcash, Commissioners Adams, Burgener, and DiMartino were present. Vice-Chair Fleming, Commissioners Arndt and Stooksbury were absent

**Public Comments:** None

### Consent Agenda

**Commissioner Adams moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion, seconded by Commissioner DiMartino carried with all the Commissioners present voting in favor thereof.**

**Pulled Items** None

**Consent Follow up** None

**Monthly Report Follow-up:** The Triennial disaster drill exercise was successfully held September 20. Special thanks to Loveland Fire Rescue Authority, Thompson Valley EMS, Loveland Police Department, Poudre Fire Authority, Windsor Fire Rescue, Aims Community College, Denver International Airport, Midland Texas International Air and Space, and area hospitals. Many people from our local pilot community and emergency services volunteered as victims and the support and help from our partners was much appreciated.

Since the last meeting there is no change in status with the Remote Tower Project. Timelines have been updated with goals to restart testing early next year after anticipated upgrades are made. Staff has reached out to the Remote Tower vendor to determine if future adjustment criteria can be met. Searidge Technologies and FAA are still negotiating costs associated to the FAA's change order. Staff and project managers currently feel optimistic that necessary adjustments will be made and that the project will continue to progress.

Terminal Design contract was passed by the Loveland City Council earlier this week. Airport budget will be presented for Fort Collins Council on the first of November. Loveland City Council has earmarked \$1 million for the terminal project gap contingent upon the same contribution from the City of Fort Collins as part of their 2023 budget process.



**Public Comments:** None

## **Regular Agenda**

### **4. AVIATION TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION CENTER**

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law on March 11, 2021 by the President, and the Colorado state government received \$3.8 billion from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund. These funds may be used for purposes outlined in federal law and are subject to appropriation by the General Assembly. These funds must be obligated for authorized purposes by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.

As part of the Larimer County's State ARPA grant requests, Aims Community College is poised to submit for a grant to support the "Aviation Technology and Transportation Innovation Center" which includes an education space that Aims would build and provide the programming for which would include an Aircraft Maintenance Technician School (also referred to as and Aircraft and Powerplant Mechanic, or A&P Program). The demand for aircraft mechanics exceeds that of pilots (133,000 aircraft mechanics needed over the next 20 years in North America). Denver and Northern Colorado have an incredible career outlook for this segment of the aviation industry. This project, along with other Larimer County projects, were highlighted by the visit by Governor Polis and Congressman Neguse to the Aims Flight Training Center earlier this year.

The Larimer County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) recently gave staff the green light to proceed with county contributions to support several of the exciting capital projects that have been in the works since late last year. The BOCC earmarked and approved \$1.5M to support the local match (Aims match is up to 25% of \$24 million facility) for the Technology and Transportation Innovation Hub proposal. It is expected that the grant submission process will occur in QTR 1 of FY23, with the award notification to occur shortly after this process. Larimer County Staff have identified that the projects they are actively supporting started in late 2021 with approximately 50 projects, which has been short listed down to eight (8).

This project is also part of another request of State of Colorado ARPA funding that is to be applied to the completion of the new Airport Terminal. The Terminal funding will be requested



through a different state grant program that is focused on economic recovery, where the Aims CC request will be derived through the workforce development allocations.

The objectives of this educational space include:

- Expand aviation training and educational offerings to its students; complete the aviation education ecosystem to complement existing Professional Pilot, UAS & Drone Training, and Air Traffic Control educational programs
- Attract and retain talent through career and technical education, workforce development, and connection to employment in Northern Colorado
- Drive investment in a targeted, high-growth sector of the economy and position Northern Colorado as a leader in aviation technologies, transportation, and other related services
- Supports high-demand and well-paying careers, compliments other aviation programs, veterans, HS pathway program, supports innovation and future technologies, supports Northern Colorado economic development
- Career opportunities in Colorado are exceptional: United Airlines, Frontier Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Sierra Nevada, Ball Aerospace, Lockheed Martin, Pilatus, plus numerous fixed-based operators (FBO) at Centennial Airport, Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport, Greeley Airport, and Northern Colorado Regional Airport

The Educational Program overview includes:

- Aims educational facility would initially host an A&P A.A.S. degree (2-year)
  - The only other similar program on the front range is Spartan, a for profit institution
  - Aims would provide the programming a reduced and great value to the student
  - Enrollment numbers planned at 75 students within 3 years
  - Create the space to grow and accommodate 150 students
- Education space includes:
  - 33,900 sq/ft of classroom/lab space, which includes hangar bay and test cell spaces



- Highly specialized lab and aircraft equipment that will be state-of-the-art
- Discussion on including a space for the Remote Air Traffic Control Tower within the new facility
- Must become a FAA part 147 certified A&P Program (takes about 2 years to achieve certification)
- The ARPA grant for Aims falls under “Workforce Development”

**Public Comments:** **Martin Lind**, Discovery Air: Voiced support of this project and stated he was on the committee that allowed Aims to build their flight training center in the through the fence location but that this is the last spot available. That interest was shown for this location in the last airport RFP. That finding spots available with access to taxiways and gates is challenging. Requested the Commission ensure this fantastic site is the best option for this fantastic building which does not require a lot of aviation access.

**Commissioner DiMartino moved to approve the letter of support for Aims Community College’s Aviation Technical Training and Innovation Center and the recommendation from the Planning and Development Subcommittee for the identified site. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Burgener carried with all the Commissioners present voting in favor thereof.**

**5. US CUSTOMS  
NEGOTIATIONS  
WITH POSSIBLE  
EXECUTIVE**

At the April 21 Airport Commission Meeting, representatives from Discovery Air provided a report on their efforts to establish a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program. Following that meeting at the June 16 Airport Commission Meeting, Discovery Air provided a proposal requesting a \$200,000 annual financial contribution from the Airport/Cities to support the service. Under the proposal, Discovery Air would provide the administrative support and office space, including the build-out to meet CBP’s requirements, and retain all revenues generated. The services proposed would support businesses and individuals with international travel needs traveling on general aviation aircraft through their newly constructed facilities.

Staff conducted a thorough investigation of the proposal, and hired specialized legal consultants to assist with navigating legal review and identify options for the request. Federal laws dictate how Airport generated revenues can be used, which



made the request challenging to find solutions to provide. One option was identified that would provide Airport funding directly to the US Government through a separate agreement with CBP. The costs as estimated by Discovery Air and the CBP service is \$195,000 annually. This option was presented to the Airport Commission at the September 15 meeting in addition to a drafted agreement that could be used between the Cities and Discovery Air for the provision of CBP services.

As a result of the previous month's meeting the Airport Commission directed staff to continue negotiations with Discovery Air on the service. The Commission also directed Loveland's Economic Director to engage in the efforts to find a resolution to the financial request. This item is to provide a briefing to the Airport Commission on the status of the negotiations and the status of the application between Discovery Air and CBP.

It was announced on Wednesday October 12 that the application for Discovery Air was selected tentatively for the CBP program.

Kelly Jones, Economic Director for the City of Loveland, provided a brief summary that negotiations had been made directly between Discovery Air and the City of Loveland. Details were not available as the proposal first needed to be presented and approved by the City of Loveland Council. More details would be provided after approval by the City of Loveland Council.

**Public Comments:** **Martin Lind**, Discovery Air: Formally withdrew his request for monetary support from the Airport Commission for the CBP program because it was too cumbersome, and that this program was too critical to the region. Stated his company would complete this project regardless of support as they saw the value that it will bring and will enhance services here for the region and their tenants. He stated this may take pressure off of Kelly if she is not able to get the City of Loveland to approve of it but that he would not be mad at her and that her staff have been great to work with and that they greatly appreciated all the support.

## **6. PROPOSED 5-YEAR AIRPORT CAPITAL**

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a critical planning tool that is used to identify the Airport's priority list for projects for the next five (5) years. It is updated annually to keep current with project costs and the status of available resources.



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**IMPROVEMENT  
PLAN**

At the end of 2020, the Airport Commission and the City Councils approved the 2020 Airport Master Plan, which included the recommended capital projects and a 20-year financial plan for implementation.

In 2020 and 2021, the CIP was modified and updated multiple times to support competing priorities as a result of the CARES Act funding and the anticipated airport reclassification.

The projects in this updated Capital Improvement Plan are primarily those that are listed in the 2020 Master Plan and are predominantly eligible for aviation related federal (FAA) and state funds. The CIP does not include all of the capital projects and equipment that are necessary of continued operations and maintenance of the Airport—particularly those that are not eligible for aviation related federal and state funding. This updated Capital Improvement Plan has been discussed with and affirmed by FAA and state officials in meetings held on October 4.

Due to the number of enplanements from Avelo Airlines' operations in 2022, we are on track to received approximately \$2 million of additional guaranteed FAA funding in 2024.

While all of the projects on our updated CIP list are important to the vision and operation of the Airport, two are particularly significant to mention over the next two years.

One is the new Airport Terminal. This year's update reflects the work done on the Terminal Design and includes current estimated costs of construction and notes some of the additional funding we are seeking for construction. Our design of the terminal and related infrastructure needs (i.e., the associated road and parking network) has been impacted by the pandemic (supply chain and labor issues) and inflation (driving up early estimates). However, we continue to work on securing the necessary resources to construct an attractive and well-functioning terminal.

The other large scale federally funded project is the Runway Widening Project. This is scheduled for construction in 2023-2024 for a total cost of \$14.5 million. This is an FAA supported project to satisfy related airfield design requirements for the Airport's type of critical design aircraft—the Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 series aircraft.



The attached "2023-2027 Proposed Airport Capital Improvement Plan" spreadsheet provides a wide range of information about the variety of funding resources—both available and sought—for each project listed.

The purpose of this agenda item is to request adoption by the Airport Commission of this updated 2023-2027 Airport Capital Improvement Plan. Per the Intergovernmental Agreement, this annual update is does not need to be approved by the City Councils.

**Public Comments:** None

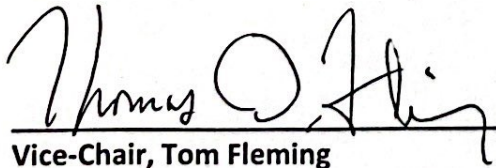
**Commissioner DiMartino moved to approve Resolution R-06-2022 to approve the 2023-2027 Airport Capital Improvement plan for adoption by the City Councils. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Adams carried with all the Commissioners present voting in favor thereof.**

**7. BUSINESS FROM MEMBERS** None

**Public Comments:** None

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

  
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**Vice-Chair, Tom Fleming**

