

Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

Subject: Runway Widening Project

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Location: LETA (4867 Venture Dr., Johnstown, CO)

Prepared By: Kelly Pride, Airport Administrator

Duration: Approximately 3+ Hours

Runway 15/33 Widening Project Overview

Project Background

- FAA designation of C-III design aircraft (Airbus A320 classification) requires runway compliance upgrades.
- Runway widening is considered a compliance-driven project.
- Phased construction planned over approximately 161 days.
- Usable runway during construction: approximately 3,570 feet.

Construction Start Date

- Original anticipated date delayed due to City Council agenda changes.
- Contractor schedule expected within 7–10 working days.
- Tentative start window: May 4 or between June 1.
- Airport committed to provide confirmed date update by Monday before noon following meeting.
- Note: Official start date June 1st

Topic of Discussion: Accident During Construction – Closure Concerns

Stakeholders asked whether an accident during construction would result in full airport closure.

Airport Response:

- Any accident would follow standard federal protocols (NTSB/FAA).
- Runway closure would remain only until federal authorities released the site.
- No intent to permanently close airport due solely to an accident during construction.

Top of Discussion: Runway 6/24 Closure

Stakeholder Concerns

- Loss of crosswind capability.
- Reduced utility for tailwheel and vintage aircraft.
- Impact to aircraft without ADS-B.
- Narrow-runway proficiency training.
- Historical operation without closure.
- Willingness of pilots to assume risk via waiver.

Airport Position

- City Managers have paused the reclassification request to the FAA that would transition Runway 06/24 to a taxiway. The usable pavement will remain open for taxi operations only.
- Airport Staff will not reopen as a runway due to safety concerns and not meeting FAA Design Standards.

Working Group Proposal

- Stakeholders proposed forming a separate working group to address Runway 6/24.
- Airport agreed discussion could occur but reaffirmed safety position.

Topic of Discussion: Phasing & Taxiway Considerations

Alpha 3 Proposal-

- Stakeholders suggested modifying Phase 1 to improve taxi flow and eliminate back-taxi congestion.

Dibble Engineering Response:

- Taxi connectors must meet FAA geometric standards.
- Adjustments would reduce available runway length to ~2,800 feet.
- Prior evaluations rejected similar configuration.
- Current phasing represents operational compromise.

Topic of Discussion: Pattern Work & Flight School Impacts

ATC Manager Response

- Federal Contract Tower with limited staffing (5 controllers total).
- Single-controller operations limit traffic complexity.
- Pattern work (touch-and-go) is lowest operational priority.
- Touch-and-go operations may be severely limited or eliminated during busy periods.
- Flight schools may need to utilize alternate airports (Greeley, Longmont, Cheyenne).

Topic of Discussion: Airline Revenue & Financial Planning

Projected Airline Revenue

- Estimated \$2.3M annually at three daily flights.
- Growth potential if service expands.

Landing Fee Analysis

- No comparative landing fee analysis has been conducted yet.
- Airlines often request temporary fee relief upon market entry.

GA Investment Priorities

Stakeholders requested prioritized GA improvement list funded by airline revenue.

Airport Director invited Stakeholders to:

- submit top 10 priorities.

Topic of Discussion: Alternative Airport Coordination

- No formal plan to coordinate relocation of tenants during construction.
- CSU drone runway discussed but timing conflicts due to their paving project.
- No second regional airport plan is currently identified.

Topic of Discussion: Runway Performance & Safety Enhancements

Halfway Marker Suggestion

Proposal:

- Install midpoint markers on shortened runway.
- Assist pilots in performance decision-making.

Status:

- Identified as action item.
- Received positive response.

Arresting System Inquiry

- No EMAS or arresting system planned during construction.

Director's Clarification of Mandate

Director stated:

- Cities directed airport toward financial autonomy.
- Commercial recruitment is policy driven.
- Vision and strategic direction were part of hiring expectations.

Public Engagement

- Stakeholders encouraged to use City Council public comment (3-minute format).
- Positive remarks made regarding Mayor and City Manager responsiveness.

Adjournment