

Port Isabel – Cameron County Airport Development Plan

In December 2004, Cameron County through the Texas Department of Transportation entered into a consultant's agreement with Bucher, Willis and & Ratliff Corporation (BWR) for the preparation of the Port Isabel – Cameron County Municipal Airport Development Plan.

The airport development plan has been initiated by Cameron County to: 1) evaluate existing airport conditions, 2) assess the impacts of future aviation demand, and 3) provide the County with information and direction in the continued "short term" and "long term" operation and planning of the County airport.

The development plan's primary purpose is to provide an objective look at future airport needs based on a comprehensive review of design considerations. This plan will also serve to answer several important questions about the role and function of the Port Isabel-Cameron County Airport. Some of these questions include:

- What is the Airport's existing and future service role?
- What are the existing airport facilities and equipment and the airport operational conditions?
- What are the preferred airfield, terminal area and access development strategies?
- What are the estimated project costs associated with the development program?

This plan identifies improvement priorities in accordance with TxDOT-Aviation Division policies and standards and is consistent with current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) design standards and airspace criteria. The approved airport plan will also enable Cameron County to apply for grants on eligible development items.

The following issues and objectives have been identified as being significant to the development of the proposed planning efforts at the Port Isabel – Cameron County Airport, and would be included in the Airport Development Plan process as key components in complying with TxDOT Aviation Division standards and policies:

- To provide airport facilities and services for all users in a manner that maximizes safety, efficiency, and opportunities for use
- To develop the airport in a manner that meets acceptable physical development standards and environmental requirements of Federal, State, and local agencies for airfield and terminal area facilities. To consider safety and security as primary factors in all decision-making situations in the development of the airport.
- To ensure compatibility with local land use patterns, plans, and growth management objectives as they are affected by airport noise.
- To provide an opportunity for a fair system of user charges that distributes the burden of capital investments, operation, and maintenance equitably between direct users and indirect beneficiaries of the system.
- To enhance the opportunities for economic development and employment in a manner that is consistent with local growth policies and plans.
- To provide the opportunity for local officials and the general public to participate in the decision-making process throughout the development of the plan.