



# City of Denton

City Hall  
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## AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

**DEPARTMENT:** Denton Enterprise Airport

**ACM:** Frank Dixon

**DATE:** December 2, 2025

### **SUBJECT**

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the Airport Master Plan Update.

### **BACKGROUND**

Airport master plans are comprehensive, long-range planning documents that guide the future development of an airport. They are essential tools used by airport sponsors, planners, and governing bodies to ensure that the airport can meet future aviation demand in a safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible manner.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recommends that public-use airports develop and periodically update master plans to reflect changes in aviation activity, community needs, and regulatory requirements. The last master plan update for Denton Enterprise Airport occurred in 2015. A typical master plan includes forecasts of future aviation activity, an assessment of facility needs, alternatives for development, and a financial implementation plan. It also incorporates stakeholder input and aligns with local, regional, and national transportation goals.

The primary objectives of an airport master plan are to:

- Provide a clear roadmap for future airport development.
- Ensure the airport remains safe, efficient, and responsive to demand.
- Support sound financial planning and capital investment.
- Promote compatibility with surrounding land uses and environmental stewardship.
- Facilitate coordination with federal, state, and local agencies.

The master planning process is collaborative and data-driven, involving input from airport users, community stakeholders, and regulatory agencies. The final product serves as a strategic guide for decision-making and capital improvement programming over a 20-year planning horizon.

The process to update the Airport Master Plan began in the spring of 2024. It received 90% grant funding from the FAA of \$709,779.60 with a City match of \$78,864.40.

### **Process**

The process for the master plan update was broken into three (3) phases:

1. Take an inventory of existing conditions and develop aviation forecasts
2. Assess airport demand/capacity and develop facility requirements; analyze development alternatives

3. Develop a recommended development concept (with environmental considerations); develop a concept capital improvement program.

Airport stakeholder engagement is a significant part of the planning process. A Planning Advisory Committee, consisting of Airport and community partners, was convened on four (4) occasions to provide ongoing input into the process. Stakeholder engagement also included regular town hall meetings to keep the public informed about the planning process. A planning website, [dto.airportstudy.net](http://dto.airportstudy.net), was launched to solicit feedback and provide information, as well as document drafts.

### **Final Draft**

The City Council will be provided a summary of the final Airport Master Plan report. This report will include details in all phases of the plan, the recommended development concept (i.e. how the airport may develop over the next 20 years based on existing data and forecasts), and financial information related to that development.

The master plan serves as a critical tool for positioning Denton Enterprise Airport for future growth and investment. It translates long-term planning into actionable priorities, identifying specific projects that enhance capacity, safety, and operational efficiency. The projects identified should be thought of as a menu of potential development outcomes, dependent upon future airport needs and market demands. Importantly, a project's inclusion in the Airport Master Plan makes it eligible, though not guaranteed, for FAA funding at 90% of the project cost.

One of the most important outcomes is the updated Airport Layout Plan (ALP), which is submitted to the FAA for review and approval. The ALP, along with supporting documentation such as aviation forecasts and facility requirements, ensures the airport remains eligible for federal funding and provides a clear basis for future grant applications. By aligning development goals with FAA standards, the master plan strengthens the airport's ability to secure resources and implement improvements in a timely, coordinated manner.

NOTE: Due to its size, the draft Master Plan Update is available online at [dto.airportstudy.net/documents](http://dto.airportstudy.net/documents).

### **OPTIONS**

1. Direct staff to schedule Council consideration of the Airport Master Plan Update at a future Council meeting.
2. Table direction to a future date.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Direct staff to schedule Council consideration of the Airport Master Plan Update at a future Council meeting.

### **PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (Council, Boards, Commissions)**

Nov. 20, 2025 – Airport Advisory Board Recommendation  
Dec. 17, 2024 – City Council Work Session  
Aug. 14, 2024 – Economic Development Partnership Work Session  
June 12, 2024 – Airport Advisory Board Work Session  
April 4, 2024 – Council Project Funding Approval  
March 20, 2024 – Airport Advisory Board Project Funding Recommendation

### **FISCAL INFORMATION**

A conceptual CIP is included in the master plan; however, final projects and costs are subject to future determination and market demands.

**EXHIBITS**

1. Agenda Information Sheet
2. Presentation

Respectfully submitted:  
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Airport Director