

AIRPORT FEASIBILITY STUDY

FOREWORD

STUDY PURPOSE

The existing Williamsburg – Jamestown Airport has been in existence since 1970, operating as a Privately – Owned Public – Use General Aviation Airport. The Current Virginia Air Transportation System Plan (VATSP) recognizes the Airport and acknowledges that the Airport serves an important element of Williamsburg – Jamestown Area aviation demand, operating within a General Aviation Community (GC) Airport role. It is estimated that in 2007, the Airport served as a gateway to bring some 8,000 visitors into the local communities.

Most recently, the private owners of the Airport have indicated their intent to retire, and their desire to sell the Airport Property. This pending property sale, and the potential for Airport closure, raised many questions, including: 1) If the existing Williamsburg – Jamestown Airport were to close, how would this affect current and future Airport users?; 2) Is the existing Williamsburg - Jamestown Airport site the best location to serve current and future Area aviation demand?; and 3) What alternatives might be available to serve both current and future Area aviation demand?

In an effort to answer the above and other questions, this Airport Feasibility Study has been both authorized and funded by FAA, the Virginia Department of Aviation, and James City County.

The overall purpose of this Airport Feasibility Study is to:

determine the demand for aviation services and the alternatives available to serve this demand in the James City County area.

The Study purpose will be accomplished through a series of objectives. Important Study objectives include:

- ➔ Establish a Public Participation / Public Information Program to provide a high level of Public Involvement in the Study.
- ➔ Establish a Community Airport Committee to provide input into the Study, and help represent various Community concerns.
- ➔ Determine and define the Williamsburg – Jamestown (Geographical) Aviation Service Area.
- ➔ Develop related Aviation Forecasts.
- ➔ Identify Area Aviation Facility Needs.



- ➔ Define Alternatives of meet Area aviation facility needs, and develop an Evaluation Matrix indicating the relative advantages and disadvantages of each alternative analyzed.

It should be noted that this Study is *not*, and is *not intended to be* a Site Selection Study. Therefore, the results of the Alternatives Evaluation effort will not result in a final recommendation for a future course of action, but will provide guidance for future decision makers.

Lastly, it should also be noted that this Draft Report is the first in a series of Draft Reports that will be developed and distributed for review and comment, in concert with the Study schedule.