



WATFORD CITY MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Watford City Municipal Airport is located in McKenzie County in the northwestern part of North Dakota. The region has experienced substantial growth and impacts from oil development in western North Dakota and the airport serves as a general aviation hub for the Bakken Oilfield. Increased activity by larger, more demanding aircraft has created operational challenges for the Watford City Municipal Airport. Multi-year planning studies, including an alternative airport site study, identified issues and constraints to current airport operations. The studies found:

- A need to lengthen the primary (paved) runway from 4,400 feet to a minimum of 5,500 feet to accommodate increased operations by large aircraft (heavier than 12,500 pounds).
- For aircraft currently operating at the airfield, Runway 12-30 instrument approach minimums are limited due to terrain, roads and other obstacles in the runway approaches. Specifically, the Runway 12 instrument approach is available in daytime only.
- Extending Runway 12-30 on its existing alignment is impractical due to terrain constraints, development of the Watford City Bypass and potential impacts to environmentally-sensitive land.
- A site selection study was conducted to determine if there were any feasible alternative airport sites within reasonable proximity to Watford City. None were found.
- The best path forward was to plan for a new paved runway on an alternative alignment/footprint at the existing airport site.

AIRPORT NEEDS

The intent of improvements is to lengthen the Airport's runway length to accommodate aviation demand and meet FAA design standards. Factors contributing to the need for improvements include runway pavement strength that is inadequate for larger aircraft using the airport on a frequent basis and instrument approach capability limitations of the current runway.

The implementation of improvements to the airport will address the following needs:

- Providing adequate runway length to meet existing and foreseeable requirements considering changes in the Watford City region.
- Providing instrument approach procedures for both runway ends available for day and night operations.





PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

CONSTRUCTION OF 5,500' TO 5,800' PAVED RUNWAY

Design challenges associated with the relocation/realignment of the primary runway include the following:

- Minimizing time the Airport is without a paved runway during construction
- Preventing the impact of environmentally-sensitive land

Improvements proposed include the following:

- Construct a paved runway 5,500-5,800 feet long by 75 feet wide including:
 - ◇ Replace electronic aids to navigation (NAVAID) on the airfield
 - ◇ Develop revised approach and departure instrument approach procedures to the primary runway
 - ◇ Runway and taxiway lighting and signage for the longer runway and taxiways
 - ◇ Land acquisition to support the new runway and associated Runway Protection Zones (RPZs) either through avigation easement, fee simple, or both as needed to support development of the preferred alternative to be identified in the Environmental Assessment.
 - ◇ Airfield drainage improvements (including ditches and channels)

Upon completion of the planning and environmental assessment, the Airport Authority will need financial assistance from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and State of North Dakota to accomplish the proposed development. This project is necessary to provide an airport that accommodates the aviation demands of the community and the Bakken Oilfield for the foreseeable future.

ESTIMATED TIMING



ANTICIPATED FINANCIAL NEEDS

