

## **APPENDIX Q**

### **PUBLIC HEARING MATERIALS**

A Public Hearing to hear and accept comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the St. George Replacement Airport was held concurrently with a final Public Workshop approximately thirty days after the Draft EIS document was distributed for public review. This Public Hearing/Public Workshop was held on October 19, 2005 at the Dixie Center in St. George, Utah, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Meeting advertisements, sign-in sheets, and local press coverage documenting the Public Hearing/Public Workshop and the interested citizens that attended are presented in this appendix. All comments received on the Draft EIS document and the FAA responses to those comments are presented in **Appendix R** in the Final EIS.

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**Attachment Q-1  
Public Information Meeting,  
Meeting Advertisements, Sign-in Sheets, and Local Press  
Coverage**

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# SPECTRUM

A Marketing and Communications Company

PROOF  
OF  
PUBLICATION

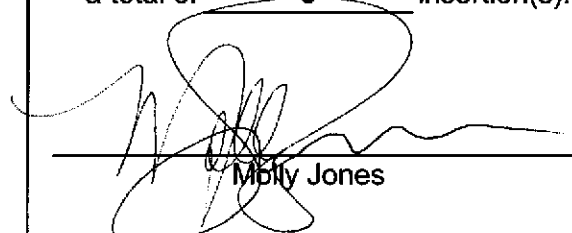
STATE OF UTAH SS.  
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

Molly Jones, being duly sworn,  
deposes and says that she is  
an accounting representative, at  
the daily newspaper published at  
St. George, Washington County,  
State of Utah, also distributed in  
Iron County, and that the notice  
**Proposed Replacement Airport...**

is a true copy of which is here to  
attached, was published in its issue  
dated the 11 day of

OCTOBER 2005

and was published again in the  
issues of said newspaper dated:  
**10/12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19, 2005** for  
a total of 9 insertion(s).

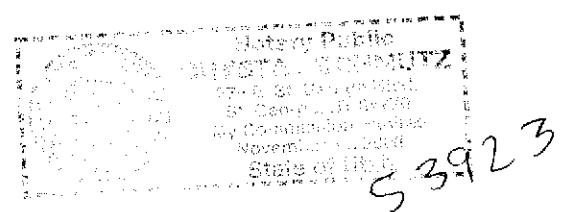


Molly Jones

Subscribed and sworn before me

this 13 day of  
OCTOBER 2005.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC RESIDING  
AT WASHINGTON COUNTY



Proposed  
**REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT ST. GEORGE**



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2005, 3:00 - 7:00 PM

DIXIE CENTER

1835 S. Convention Center Dr., St. George, Utah  
435-628-7003

The Federal Aviation Administration's Northwest Mountain Region has released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for public review on the proposed replacement airport for St. George, Utah. The DEIS assesses potential impacts from development of the proposed replacement airport, as well as additional noise analysis developed in close coordination with the National Park Service. The DEIS is available for review on-line at [www.airportsite.net/sgu-eis](http://www.airportsite.net/sgu-eis) and during regular business hours until November 8, 2005 at the Cedar City Library, 303 North 100 East, Cedar City; the Hurricane Valley Branch, 36 South 300 West, Hurricane; the Santa Clara Branch, 1099 North Lava flow Drive, St. George; the Springdale Branch, 898 Zion Park Blvd, Springdale; and the Washington County library, 50 South Main, St. George. The FAA will accept written and oral comments at the October 19, 2005 Public Information Meeting and Public Hearing. Written comments can also be mailed, e-mailed, or faxed by Tuesday, November 8, 2005 to David Field, Manager, Planning/Programming Branch, Airports Division, Federal Aviation Administration, Northwest Mountain Region, 1601 Lind Avenue, S.W., Suite 315, Renton, WA 98055-4056. Telephone: (425) 227-2610 or 2600, Fax: (425) 227-1600, Email: [David.Field@faa.gov](mailto:David.Field@faa.gov). All interested parties are encouraged to provide comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIS.


For more information: [www.airportsites.net/sgu-eis](http://www.airportsites.net/sgu-eis)

ST. GEORGE OFFICE  
275 E. St. George Blvd. - St. George, UT 84770  
Office (435)674-6200 FAX 674-6265  
CEDAR CITY OFFICE  
2071 N. Main St. #2 - Cedar City, UT 84720  
Office (435) 586-7646 FAX 586-7471

# THE SPECTRUM

## PROOF OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF UTAH SS.  
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON



**Proposed  
REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT ST. GEORGE**

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2005, 3:00 – 7:00 PM

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1835 S. Convention Center Dr., St. George, Utah  
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For more information: [www.airportsite.net/sgu-eis](http://www.airportsite.net/sgu-eis)

Nicki Haines, being duly sworn, deposes and says that she is a classified account executive, at the daily newspaper published at St. George, Washington County, State of Utah, also distributed in Iron County, and that the notice:

a true copy of which is hereto attached, was published in its issue dated the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Oct 2005

and was published again in the issues of said newspaper dated:

Oct 12, 13, 14, 15, 16,  
17, 18, 19 - 2005


for a total of 9 insertion(s).

*Nicki Haines*  
Nicki Haines

Subscribed and sworn before me  
this 25 day of Oct 2005

*Donna M. Frost*  
NOTARY PUBLIC RESIDING AT  
WASHINGTON COUNTY

ST. GEORGE OFFICE  
275 East, St. George Blvd. St. George, UT 84770  
Office (801) 674-6200 General FAX (801) 674-6265 Sales FAX (801) 674-6264 Classified  
CEDAR CITY OFFICE  
2071 North Main Street #2 Cedar City, UT 84720  
Office (801) 586-7646 FAX (801) 586-7471

 **DONNA M. FROST**  
NOTARY PUBLIC • STATE of UTAH  
275 E. ST. GEORGE BLVD.  
ST. GEORGE, UT 84770  
COMM. EXP. 4-9-2006



**PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
PROPOSED REPLACEMENT AIRPORT AT ST. GEORGE, UTAH  
October 19, 2005**



**Sign-in Sheet**

Title (Check One)	First & Last Name	Street Address, City, State, Zip	Firm	Telephone Number
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Jim Case	95 S. Columbia Way Cedar City, UT 84720 2954	SELF	(circled) call on exc. summary jimcase@netuteh.com
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	RICHARD SPOTTS	ARIZONA STRIP DISTRICT OFFICE U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT 345 E. RIVERSIDE DRIVE ST. GEORGE UT 84790	ARIZONA STRIP BLM	435 688-3207 Richard_Spotts@blm.gov
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	ERIC deVITA	675 VERMILION AVE ST GEORGE, UT 84790	SELF	435 9869253
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Curt Hukking	1670 W 1600 S St. George	Five County ADG	673-3548
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	HENRIK CHRISTENSEN	WES CORP. 7180 BOLLOCK DR, S. 200 LAS VEGAS, NV 89119	WES CORP	702-837-1500

update  
 website  
 with  
 financial  
 records!

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Mike McClure	P.O. Box 42011, Kanarraville UT 84742	Paladin Group	435-590-7888
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	John Towle	723 W 1600 N. WASHINGTON, 84780	Self	435-251-8073
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	ED BACA	317 So. Five Sisters Dr. St. George, ut. 84780	Self-	(435) 674-5527
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Roxie Sherwin	1885 Convention Ctr Drive St-Geo 84790	St. George Convent ion & Visitor Bureau	435-634-5747
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Arnie & Anna Walder	1163 N. Ventana Dr. Washington, UT 84780	Self	435-629-9431



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October 19, 2005**



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<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Douglas Shaw	62 W. Washington End Dr. Washington, UT 84780	Hughes General Contractors	628-0047
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	MEL LOSEBERG	435 E. TABERNACLE STE 202 ST GEORGE, UT	CREMEL & MURPHY	673-4677
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Stan; Leora Potter			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	JIM GOURLEY	2235 S. 1400 East Springdale Hill UT 84790	RESIDENT	656 2145
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Marreen Casper	197 E. Tabernacle St. George, 64790	see Orrin G. Hopton	684-1795



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<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Andrew SchAFER	1753 W. SunKissed DR St George UT 84770	—	—
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Kirk Nicks	1981 E. 5650 S. S. Ogden UT 84403	state of utah	801-715-2260
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	RUSTY RICHARDS	1722 E 280 N B1 ST GEORGE UT 84770	AGC	(435) 628-1346
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Kirt McDaniel	435 E. Tabernachi, sui. 202 St. George, UT 84770	Cramer Mobile	435-673-4677
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	LARRY BRONSON	6658 Dove Forest CT Henderson NV 89074	Headwaters	702 547-6920



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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Mike Empey	321 N. Mall dr E101B ST. George, UT 84790	CONGRESSMAN JIM MATTHEWSON	435- 627-0880
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Jerry Rasmussen	197 E Tabernacle St-George 84770	Washington County Nixie Center	467-5857
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Voin R. Campbell	708 Picturesque Ln. St. George, UT 84770	VRCampbell Sub	688-7131
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	BRITTON MACE	479 S. 3430 E. NEW HARMONY, UT 84757	SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY	(435) 865-8569
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	JIMMY E JONES	700 E OCEAN BLVD LONG BEACH CA 90802	HEERY INTERNATIONAL	213-268-1722



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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	PATRICK MORLEY	135 N. 2400 W. SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84116	UTAH DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE	(801) 715-2260  PERSON OF NEIS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	HAL EDWARD	150 So. Crystal Lakes Dr #11 ST. GEORGE, UT 84770	RE/MAX FIRST REALTY	435-703-1579
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Dean Morrill	1555 So. 160 W. HURRICANE, UTAH 84737		435-635-0551
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Jeff Bradybaugh	National Park Service Springdale, UT 84767		435-772-0208
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	JIM MCGUIRE	111 N. 100 E. Washington, UT 84780	Washington City	(435) 686-6323



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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Lowell ELMER	1070 W. 1600 S.	DIXIE MPO	673 3548
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	MONTE YEAGER	3374 PIONEER ST. S.C.C. 84109	UTAH AIR TRAVEL COMMISSION	(801) 467-4234
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Kezia Nielsen	2100 National Park Springdale, UT 84767	Zion Nat. Park	435-772-0211 <i>(copy of ext. summary)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	JERRY AMUNDSEN	335 E. St. George Blvd. St George, UT 84770	Carter & Burgess	435/627-1888
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	DARLA SIDLES	Grand Canyon Parashant Natl Mon. 345 E Riverside Drive St George UT 84790	NPS	435 688 3226



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Title (Check One)	First & Last Name	Street Address, City, State, Zip	Firm	Telephone Number
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Scott HIRSCHI	225 So. 700 E ST. GEORGE, UT 84770	WASHINGTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	435 652 7750
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Roene B. Wilkinson	1732 W. 540 N St. George, UT 84770	St. George Area Chamber of Commerce	(435) 628-1650 ext 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Robert Snyder	PO Box 123 Rockville, UT 84763	Dixie State College	(435) 652-7719
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	BRYAN THIRIOT	116 E. TABERNACLE #21 ST. GEORGE, UT 84770	SENATOR BENNETT	(435) 628-5514
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Arl & Sue Hillburn	2280 Hawkins Cir St. George, UT 84790		



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Title (Check One)	First & Last Name	Street Address, City, State, Zip	Firm	Telephone Number
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Suzanne Allen	935 S. 770 E. St George UT 84790	City of St George	673-7575
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Jeff Mowby	144 Brigham St. George UT 84790	PESCARA YAES-	673-6172
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Todd Emerson	444 S. River Rd	Skywest AIRLINES	634-3530
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:				

REC-10/20/05



**PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING  
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Title (Check One)	First & Last Name	Street Address, City, State, Zip	Firm	Telephone Number
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Salce-Soines	2142 N. Tower Bldg Dr. St. George UT 84770	J2 Construction jakepines@charter.net	435- 673-4626 <i>Call at 11:30 AM 10/19/05</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	James T. Beard	1475 S. MASECTIC DR. WASHINGTON UT.	TSA	435-421-1081
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Sky Best	875 WEST REDCLIFF DR #2 WASHINGTON UT 84780	POSTNET	435-634089 8
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Lorri K. Puchlik	97 E. St. George Blvd. St George, Utah 84790 -	St. George Area Chamber	435-628-1650
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Other:				





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Article published Oct 26, 2005

## **Deadline nears for airport comments**

### **• Environmental impact concerns taken until Nov. 8**

By **BRIAN PASSEY**  
bpassey@thespectrum.com

ST. GEORGE - There are less than two weeks left for public comment on the draft environmental impact statement for the proposed St. George replacement airport.

Some members of the public had a chance to comment during a public hearing Oct. 19 in St. George, but there is still a chance to comment on the EIS by e-mail, fax or letter. As for city officials who are working to move the project forward and an environmental group that wants to make sure noise from the new airport will not be too disruptive to Zion National Park, they now have to wait and see how the Federal Aviation Administration will address the comments.

"Right now it's kind of a waiting game," said Michael La Pier, who recently took over management of the St. George Airport. "Until the comment period is over there is not much more the city or its consultants can do."

La Pier said that following the comment period, there will be a review by city officials, their consulting firm - Landrum and Brown - and the FAA. There likely will be some amendments to the EIS in reflection of what was said during the comment period. However, La Pier said city officials will not know if there are any obstacles to going forward with a final EIS until the comment period is closed.

Dick Hingson, an overflight specialist for the Grand Canyon Trust environmental group, still has some concerns about the EIS. His group filed suit against the FAA in April 2001, challenging the adequacy of an earlier environmental assessment for the airport. The FAA concluded - in that assessment - there would be no significant environmental impacts from the project.

In May 2002 the court said the FAA must evaluate the cumulative impact of noise pollution on Zion National Park as a result of the proposed airport. The FAA then decided to prepare a complete environmental impact statement.

Hingson said 91 percent of the park is supposed to be managed as wilderness and his group is concerned about the potential cumulative aviation noise if the airport is built. The new EIS is an important part of disclosing this point properly and in a way the public can understand, he said.

The Grand Canyon Trust is commenting on a number of things that were not properly developed the way they should have been in the EIS, Hingson said. He said some information was not included and data was not as precise as it should have been in some areas.

One concern for Hingson is that few outside noises are heard in backcountry areas of Zion other than aircraft.

"It's like somebody revving up a motor every five minutes," he said. "It destroys the whole dignity of the experience...What is needed is mitigation and we don't see serious mitigation in this document."

Hingson conceded that the draft EIS is better than the initial environmental assessment, but he said there still are some serious defects. The trust, however, has not just highlighted problems, but also has proposed some solutions.

An obvious mitigation of noise in Zion is to route air traffic around some or all of the park. Hingson said this would not take much effort because it is done all the time for military special use areas. Not every flight across the country is in a straight line and every type of transportation has some kind of constraint, he said.

"There's room for creative route design there," he said.

On the city end, Larry Bulloch, director of the Public Works Department, is satisfied with the draft EIS and said it is probably the most complex and in-depth environmental study ever done on an airport anywhere in the nation. It is nine inches thick and cost about \$3 million, he said.

"We're very pleased with the thoroughness of the document," Bulloch said. "A review of the document makes it fairly clear that the impacts are minimal in regard to noise issues at Zion National Park."

Bulloch said the FAA has been working closely with the National Park Service and he hopes the document satisfies the park service's concerns about noise at Zion National Park. He also said the city feels the requirements of the court ruling have been satisfied.

The EIS did not study just the proposed replacement airport, it studied 17 different airports to determine noise impacts. Bulloch said it also studied a total of 9,200 square miles and not just the 1,300 acres the new airport would sit on.

"They've been more than thorough," he said of Landrum and Brown. "They went far and away beyond what was expected."

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Friday, November 4, 2005

St. George wants to get moving on airport

Getting belt route: City officials are also considering a freeway that will connect area communities to I-15

By Mark Havnes

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune

ST. GEORGE - A new \$107 million airport to be built east of this southwestern Utah city moved closer to reality this week as officials met to push for the release of an environmental study.

That's not all for this fast-growing city. Also in the works is a new beltway connecting St. George and Interstate 15 to surrounding communities. And planners are working to identify problems and propose solutions to improve traffic flow along St. George's major surface streets.

Planning for the airport was stalled in 2001 when the Grand Canyon Trust filed a suit against the Federal Aviation Administration, claiming the original environmental assessment (EA) to identify aircraft noise impacts on Zion National Park was inadequate.

A judge agreed and called for a more comprehensive environmental-impact statement (EIS). A draft EIS, completed by the FAA and the National Park Service was released in September. Final approval, anticipated in spring, will let the project take off again, but with additional costs.

"The delay increased the cost of the project by \$15 million," said St. George Public Works Director Larry Bulloch on Thursday.

Bulloch, along with mayor Daniel D. McArthur and Michael LaPier, manager of the current St. George airport, met with Sen. Orrin Hatch in Washington on Wednesday to address any final concerns.

Hatch said in a news release that he hopes the process can proceed in an expeditious manner so it will be ready to handle increased demand expected for the popular area.

"St. George needs this new airport, and the city has gone above and beyond what's necessary to address the endless demands by environmental extremists," said Hatch.

Roger Clark, the air and energy director for the Grand Canyon Trust, said on Thursday the group was preparing comments on the draft EIS that will be delivered by next Tuesday.

Clark said the trust remains concerned about the projected increased number of flights over Zion and potential impacts on plants and wildlife in the park.

At 13 inches thick, Bulloch called the EIS one of the most lengthy he has ever seen. In addition to projecting noise impacts from the proposed new airport, the document takes into account the impact from 17 regional airports dotting 9,200 square miles in and around southwestern Utah.

Bulloch said the airport is needed because the current one does not meet design standards required by the FAA to accommodate larger private jets and commercial aircraft like the jet planes St. George-based SkyWest Airlines plans to put into future service.

A funding formula is still being worked out to determine the financial obligations of the federal government and the city.

The new airport will be accessed by a new, four-lane highway to be called the Southern Parkway. It will connect Hurricane, on state Route 9, to Interstate 15 at a new interchange to be built two miles north of the Arizona state line.

Work on the parkway project is expected to begin in the spring, using \$28 million in federal highway funds.

Bulloch said the parkway is the first of three different sections that will eventually surround St. George with a 50-mile, four-lane belt route offering access on and off I-15 to the Washington County cities of Hurricane, Washington, Ivins and Santa Clara.

Other roads are also in the planning stages at the city.