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Ann Arbor Airport runway extension moves toward review, public hearing stage

Posted by [jmcgover](#) February 02, 2009 13:22PM

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Tonight the [City Council](#) gets a briefing on a planned runway expansion at the [Ann Arbor Airport](#).

The change wouldn't affect the size of planes using the airport, at the corner of State Street and Ellsworth Road.

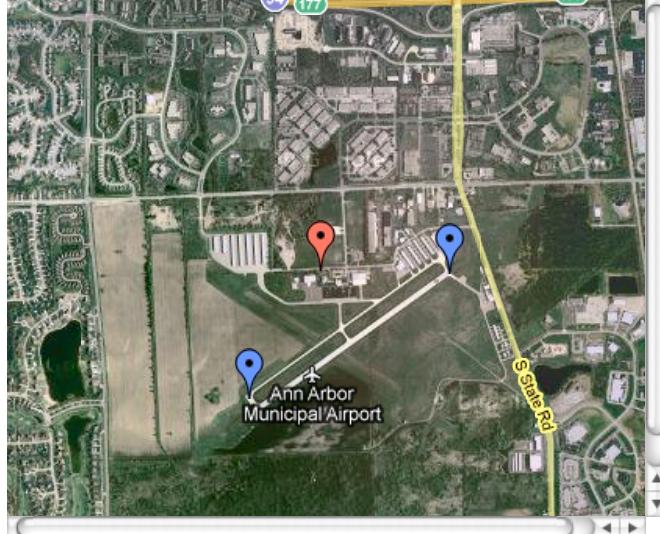
It would improve safety, says Mark Perry, chairman of the seven-member Airport Advisory Committee.

Now 3,500 feet long, the runway requires pilots to make a much steeper descent than recommended by the [Federal Aviation Administration](#).

Lengthening the runway by 800 feet would enhance safety without changing the airports' FAA classification, says Perry, a private pilot.

Five planes have overrun the runway since 2000. The airport handles about 75,000 takeoffs and landings a year and is home base for 170 aircraft.

The airport property extends to Lohr Road and there's ample room to add to the southwest end of the runway, Perry says.



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In addition to lengthening the landing strip, airport officials plan to make second change - this one a response to the [Washtenaw County Road Commission's](#) interest in widening State Street, along the airport property.

The Road Commission would like to replace the existing roadway - a single lane in each direction - with a boulevard-style road.

The new corridor would have two lanes of traffic in each direction, divided by a center median. The widening would move State Street closer to the existing runway.

To adjust for that, airport officials plan to close 150-foot section of runway closest



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to State Street and add that distance to the opposite end of the strip.

Under the new configuration, the runway would still be about half a mile from Lohr Road, Berry says.

The FAA will pay for most of the work. The state will also contribute. The city will contribute 2.5 cents of each dollar spent.

The city generates revenue from various rental fees and a surcharge on aviation fuel sold at the facility.

A new the airport layout plan including the planned changes was put in place last year. The next step is an environmental assessment.

That assessment takes noise and any social or economic impact into account and includes public hearings, Berry says.

The City Council is being asked to sign off on about \$550,000 worth of spending related to the assessment and preliminary engineering for the runway changes.

Reach Judy McGovern at 734-994-6863 or jmcgovern@annarbornews.com.

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COMMENTS (3)

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Posted by **ednavirato** on [02/10/09 at 5:22PM](#)

I like the idea of having a longer runway. Because i have seen in the summer time's planes talking off and using the whole runway and just rise over the houses across the airport at the last minute. Also by having a longer runway means bigger planes that bring with them jobs, money, and other things. During Football season the longer runway may bring more people from other areas that would other wise use willow run airport and leave their plane and money their(not in our town). Also don't forget that todays jets and small planes are not as noisy as the old ones are. Also don't forget that the airport was their before the homes were built next to the airport. If your going to live next to an airport get used to the noise because it's part of life living next to one(just like if you were to live next to a rail-road).

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Posted by **AAPolska** on [06/24/09 at 11:45PM](#)

Ednavirato.

If you are concerned with aircraft flying close to your home today... Please make sure to leave your front window open, so they can keep on climbing after the runway is extended. Possibly even your front door on a hot day .

Your comment makes absolutely no sense. You have a valid concern with the proximity of airplanes to homes today, yet you think if the runway will be 800' longer and 950' closer to your home, it will solve the problem ?

Absolutely not. It will make it worse, much worse and more dangerous for all surrounding communities.

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AApolska, don't worry...

I think Ed (or Edna) is being ironic or just plain stupid - not sure which. I like the point about living next to an amenity. Its a bit like living next to a single lane road which is slated to expand to a 6 lane highway - and not feeling upset because, of course, you always lived next to the road, right?

Thanks Ed (Edna?) for you crazy points. Really unhelpful.

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Welcome back, harryphysio!

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