

I remind the Council that last year, a similar line item was removed BY THIS COUNCIL'S STRONG MAJORITY VOTE from the 2011 CIP because, as this Council has said on many occasions, it has only approved an Environmental Assessment at the airport, not a runway expansion. That draft Environmental Assessment, by the way, is still being evaluated by the FAA after 11 months and much controversy.

Perhaps the city staff inadvertently neglected your prior message and vote in preparing the CIP this year. But, in any event, I appear tonight to ask the Council to reaffirm its decision of last year and again delete the airport expansion line item from the 2012 CIP until the Environmental Assessment study can be fully completed – and only if it is approved -- and an airport expansion can be properly debated and voted upon by this Council.

It is just wrong in these tight and difficult economic times to have an expensive, controversial capital improvement project in the city's financial plan that has not even come before the Council – even worse for city bureaucrats to slip it back in the budget – either through commission or omission -- after the Council has made its wishes well known in prior public debate and expressed a clear vote reflecting its intent.

Thank you for considering rectifying this error.