

Memo

To: City Council
From: Bryan Myrkle, Community Development Director
Date: April 20, 2018
Re: MDOT Contract No. 2018-0428

The city's major airport project for the coming year is a comprehensive update of the Airport Master Plan and Layout Plan. These are guiding documents that will help determine the future of airport development here in Charlotte.

These plans have not been updated in a serious way since the 1990s, and the vision for the airport was significantly different at that time. The old plan included significant land acquisition to support the creation of a much longer crosswind runway. The pursuit of these plans was largely set aside in the early 2000s when the cost of land acquisition proved too expensive to justify.

Subsequently, the city looked at the possible relocation of the entire airport as an expansion opportunity, which proved too controversial to garner any significant local support.

Since that time, the city has remained committed to developing and improving the airport within its current footprint as much as possible, and with a goal of reducing the city's need to subsidize airport operations with general fund dollars. These new plans would be based on that vision.

Because our existing plans are many years out of date, and no longer represent a potential course of action for the city to follow, MDOT has been encouraging the city to update our plans for several years.

It is the City Administration and Airport Advisory Board's intention to conduct one or more strategic planning sessions, create a business plan for the airport, and also update the physical layout plan. This is a very comprehensive and expensive proposition, but is required by the FAA and MDOT, who will be paying 95 percent of the \$160,000 cost. Much of the work will be handled by the city's airport consultant Prein and Newhof. There may be some modest additional expense for early planning items that were not approved for this contract by MDOT, but those have not yet been determined.

On your agenda for Monday evening is approval of two resolutions related to this contract that will be necessary to approve in order to start the project. I have also included a copy of the contract documents themselves.