

PUBLIC NOTICE OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY

Delaware County

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (PHL) – WEST CARGO REDEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION PLAN

The City of Philadelphia Division of Aviation (DOA) announces the availability for review of a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the proposed West Cargo Redevelopment and Expansion Plan (the proposed action) at the Philadelphia International Airport (PHL).

The DEA has been prepared in accordance with the following Federal and State Statutes and Regulations:

- Federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 1050.1F
- FAA Order 5040.4B, National Historic Preservation Act's (NHPA) Section 106
- Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management
- Executive Order 11990 – Protection of Wetlands
- Sections 401 and 404 of Clean Water Act (including Section 33 U.S.C. 1344)
- Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403)
- Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act
- Clean Air Act as amended, 42 U.S.C
- Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C
- Executive order 13653, preparing the United States for the impacts of Climate Change 78 Federal Register 66817
- Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. [including Section 307(c)]
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act [Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) evaluation]

The purpose of the proposed action is to meet the current and future needs of air cargo at PHL and improve airport safety. FAA forecast growth projections show that air cargo would be expected to increase by a minimum of 104% through 2035 and the current facility is not be able to accommodate this. In support of this prediction, there has been an increase of 9% in cargo operations in 2020 and this trend is expected to continue. The upgrade of existing facilities and the addition of new infrastructure are needed to accommodate this growth in a safe and efficient manner. The proposed action addresses this purpose and need.

The DEA identifies, documents, and evaluates the environmental, social, and economic consequences of the proposed action in accordance with its authorized project purpose and need.

Project Description:

The West Cargo Redevelopment and Expansion Plan proposes to redevelop and expand the existing Cargo City facility which currently occupies 135 acres. It is a long term, multi-phased development of the Site. Some of the existing Cargo City facilities would be replaced in-kind, with additional land reserved for future development as demand materializes. The proposed action includes:

- Redevelop and upgrade existing, outdated facilities in the current Cargo City area

- Develop ±148 acres of newly acquired property including new cargo handling facilities and support buildings
- Providing extension of taxiways to the new cargo area
- Relocating Tinicum Island Road

The implementation of the proposed action would result in unavoidable impacts to state and federally regulated wetlands and waterways by filling and grading activities. In total, 15.6 acres of non-tidal emergent wetlands and 11.8 acres of waterways would be directly impacted. This would result in the loss of approximately 0.2 acres of waterway and 2.4 acres of wetland for Tinicum Island Road re-location and the loss of 11.6 acres of waterway and 13.2 acres of wetland for the construction of the proposed action. To offset these losses, a combination of on-site and off-site compensatory mitigation is proposed with the proposed compensatory mitigation constituted of creation each of open waters and wetlands at a 1:1 ratio (created to lost). Due to limited suitable locations in the proposed action area, on-site compensatory mitigation for the relocation of Tinicum Island Road would occur on-site, proposed as new forested wetland creation within the floodplain of Long Hook Creek. The remainder of the wetland/waterway mitigation for the proposed action area would be conducted off-site.

The off-site compensatory mitigation work would be conducted in the city-owned Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) Park, which is in South Philadelphia, approximately 2 miles east of the Philadelphia International Airport. The mitigation site comprises 45-acres in the southwest corner of the park which has been disturbed in the past by the disposal of significant volumes of construction demolition materials and other fills. The proposed mitigation work would include the excavation of the old fill materials to elevations suitable for the restoration of tidal wetlands which historically occurred in this area. In addition to the restoration of freshwater tidal wetlands, the proposed work would include the enhancement of existing degraded wooded habitat by the removal of non-native invasive vegetation and the construction of small vernal pools. Vegetated buffers are also proposed around the mitigation site, as feasible, for site protection and upland habitat diversity.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the lead agency and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) is a cooperating agency. The USACE's involvement concerns the issuance of a Department of the Army permit for mitigation of wetlands and waters of the United States for the work. With the FAA as the lead federal agency, the USACE determinations on Section 7-ESA and Section 106-NHPA shall remain consistent with the FAA's determinations.

Document Availability

The DEA is available for download online at <https://www.phl.org/west-cargo-ea>. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hard copies are available for review at the Division of Aviation's offices in International Plaza only by appointment beginning September 9, 2020. Please call 215-937-6758 to set up an appointment.

Public Meeting

There will not be a public meeting to discuss the DEA due to the restrictions on public gatherings because of the COVID-19 pandemic. A PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Purpose and Need, background, alternatives, impact assessment, and mitigation is available for review on the website. The entire DEA is also posted on the website.

Public Comments

The public comment period will extend from September 9, 2020 through October 9, 2020. **All written comments must be submitted by 11:59 PM on October 8, 2020.** Please send any comments that you have to the following:

BY MAIL:

C&S Engineers, Inc.
Attn: PHL West Cargo EA
1500 Market Street, Suite W2410
Philadelphia, PA 19102

BY E-MAIL:

westcargoEA@phl.org