

Envisioning Austin's Airport of the Future

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Frequently Asked Questions

Here are commonly asked questions about the ABIA 2040 Master Plan.

What is the ABIA 2040 Master Plan?

The ABIA 2040 Master Plan is a set of short-term and long-term ideas that describe the vision of airport facilities, uses and requirements for Austin's airport. The ABIA 2040 Master Plan will be based on aviation forecasts, which includes growth projections for passenger travel, need for new runways, new technologies, safety and security needs, and the expansion of existing and potential new facilities. The plan also addresses future cargo operations at ABIA.

How does passenger growth affect the ABIA master plan?

Passenger growth is measured in two ways – annual and peak. Annual and peak passenger growth affects how ABIA functions in two different ways. An increase in annual passenger growth will mostly affect the size or number of terminal buildings, roadways, auto parking, hotels, catering, and rental car facilities.

An increase in the number of passengers during peak hours affects how aircraft operations works and will impact the number of terminal gates and airfield facilities; which includes runways, taxiways, and apron areas (the parking area for planes where they can be refueled, unloaded or loaded with passengers).

When will the master plan be completed?

The final version of the ABIA 2040 Master Plan is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2018.

Who is developing the master plan?

ABIA staff, engineers, consultants and planners are developing the master plan. Input is being gathered from elected officials, advisory committees and the public, all of which is being considered when preparing the ABIA 2040 Master Plan.

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ABIA 2040 Master Plan FAQs V3 Sept 2018

What is Aviation Forecasting?

Aviation forecasting is an estimate of future airport activity for both passenger and aircraft operations. It is the foundation for the ABIA 2040 Master Plan. Each recommendation in the Master Plan will be based on the aviation forecasts.

The forecast helps to determine the future sizes and construction time frames for new facilities and the expansion of existing facilities. Here are the elements of an aviation forecast:

- Passengers (domestic and international)
- Commercial aircraft operations (domestic and international)
- Freighter (all-cargo aircraft)
- Air taxi aircraft
- General aviation aircraft, and military (aircraft and helicopter)
- Annual and peak hour demands

How does the anticipated increase in e-commerce/online purchasing affect air cargo activity?

Increases to online shopping is expected to change, as a result, the industry projects double-digit growth over the next five years. The growth in e-commerce should have a major impact on the amount of air cargo. The ABIA 2040 Master Plan will consider these projections in increased air cargo based on e-commerce growth.

Where can I learn more?

You can visit www.ABIAMasterPlan.com.

You can also visit the City's website at www.austintexas.gov/airport.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Retail E-Commerce Sales 1st Quarter 2017, May 16, 2017.

The Airport of Choice for Central Texas.



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What improvements to ABIA are included in the draft 2040 Master Plan?

The draft ABIA 2040 Master Plan lays out a comprehensive set of new improvement projects which are intended to handle ABIA's expected passenger growth while maintaining the Austin-friendly customer experience. These projects allow ABIA to be responsive to new technologies in airport security, baggage handling and passenger movement at the terminal.

The projects outlined in the master plan makes it easier for airlines to provide new routes for travel, for both domestic and international flights. The plan also reserves space for a new runway, which forecasts state will be necessary in 30 years.

The improvements include:

- An estimated 2 million sq ft of new terminal/concourse space
- A new outdoor plaza and concession area
- congestion-relieving Improvements to curb front drop off/pick up conditions
- Addition of 11,100 on-site parking spaces for the public and employees
- Roadway circulation improvements on the airport campus
- Better facilities for baggage handling and baggage claim areas

What transportation improvements are included in the 2040 Master Plan?

An upgraded exit and entrance from State Highway 71 into the airport campus is included in the draft 2040 Master Plan. This improvement is designed to reduce the bottlenecks experienced by creating an unimpeded flow of traffic into and out of the airport campus.

A corridor for mass transit, including rail and buses is preserved as part of the plan. In addition, bike way and pedestrian improvements include sidewalk access and improved connectivity with Capital Metro routes.

When will the improvements be completed?

If approved, the improvements included in the ABIA 2040 Master Plan are anticipated to be carried out in the following phases

Phase 1 (2019 - 2024): A new terminal, 20-gate remote concourse, and braided interchange with Presidential Boulevard and SH 71.

Phase 2 (2025 - 2029): Upgrades to the Federal Inspection Services area, gate areas, concessions, loading bridges, and other passenger amenities; expansion of the Remain Overnight (RON) aircraft parking ramp, the aircraft gate apron, and mid-field taxiway.

Phase 3 (2030 - 2035): Additional 12 gates, roadway network improvements, a Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system and a corridor to allow for light rail.

Phase 4 (2035 - 2040): Further renovations to the Barbara Jordan Terminal, upgrades to the existing runways, new apron taxiways and taxilanes, expanded support facilities, a new ground transportation center and a new west cargo complex.

Ultimate (2040 and Beyond): A new runway and relocation of SH71 to the north.

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