

Response to City Planning Department Questions Concerning Economic Impact Related to a Runway Extension at Craig Airport.

- **Can you share what ever information you have on the economic development impact on the community of an extended runway at Craig?**

The JAA had two studies performed during 1999 on the economic impact of Craig Municipal Airport.

The American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) developed a methodology using extensive and detailed analysis of airports of varying size, type and location coupled with demographic information about the airport's community, operating data for the airport and proprietary computer software developed by AAAE to quantify the economic significance of an airport to the supporting community.

The study defined Craig Municipal Airport as a General Aviation reliever airport providing air taxi, business, helicopter, corporate and private aviation services. In addition to monetary benefits, the study identified several public benefits including:

- 1) Contributions to diagnosis and treatment of disease by being able to send blood and tissue samples, organs for transplant and patients in need of special treatment to other facilities in a timely manner.
- 2) Contributions to higher education by serving as a focal point to train students in aviation related careers.
- 3) As a key point for relief in natural disasters and to support police, civil air patrol and mosquito control.
- 4) As a stimulus for business by providing a general aviation access point to the national aviation system.
- 5) By saving time and reducing cost from the use of air travel over the auto when several people are traveling to the same business location that might not be well served by commercial air travel.
- 6) By providing a reliever airport to reduce delay costs at the larger airline served airport.

The study projected that General Aviation provided \$7.9 billion in direct economic impact with a total impact of \$42 billion on the nation's total economy in 1989.

The study reported that 334 people were directly employed by the businesses at Craig and produced \$4.9 million in direct annual impact from spending by those businesses in 1998, which resulted in a total benefit to the Jacksonville community of \$20.5 million with a projected 5-year impact of over \$107 million.

The second study was a study on the Economic Benefits from the Extension of Runway 32 at Craig Airport.

This study was completed in December 1999, by TriState Planning & Engineering in association with Prosser, Hallock, Inc. of Jacksonville. The study discussed the roles for Jacksonville International Airport as the commercial service airport for the community, Herlong providing services for smaller general aviation aircraft, Cecil Field providing service to large aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul, heavy cargo and special commercial or private industrial operators and Craig as the primary airport providing services to business and corporate aviation. In 1998, Craig Airport was the sixth busiest general aviation airport in Florida. The study pointed out that new business aircraft are getting quieter due to technological advances, but require more runway length for safety reasons.

The study discussed four community benefits:

- 1) Safety benefits: The safety benefits that a longer runway provide by giving pilots more time and distance to deal with emergencies and by providing increased altitudes for aircraft taking off to the north.
- 2) Noise benefits: The proposed extension will shift noise contours to the southeast, reducing the impact of the 65 DNL noise contour on off airport property.
- 3) Economic Benefits: Craig Airport generated approximately \$40.7 million in total annual economic benefit to the Jacksonville community as a whole. The extension was forecast to increase this benefit by at least \$6.6 million annually. The longer runway at Craig would make Jacksonville more accessible and attractive to businesses that rely upon corporate aircraft, and would increase the airport's contribution to the Jacksonville economy.
- 4) Intangible Benefits: Craig serves an important public safety role including law enforcement and public health. It provides training opportunities for aviation related careers and it serves as a General Aviation reliever airport for Jacksonville International Airport.