

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Since 1950, nine airports have closed in the Connecticut; three within the last decade. Robertson Airport (4B8) is located in the Town of Plainville and was purchased by the Town in December of 2009. The facility is now the first new municipal airport in the State in many decades.

Robertson Airport is one of only five municipal airports in Connecticut, where the majority of the airports are either State or privately-owned airports. The privately-owned airports are at constant risk of closing as they are not obligated to remain available for public use and can be sold for redevelopment at any time.

Between 2007 and 2009, the Town of Plainville studied the feasibility of purchasing the Robertson Airport, and determined that it could be acquired, preserved for public use, and managed without subsidy by the Town. Following a public referendum, the Town acquired the Airport with over \$7 million in Federal and State grants.

In order to receive future federal and state funding, an Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) are necessary. An ALP is a set of drawings that display the existing and proposed property and facilities necessary for operation and development of the airport. The ALP is a blueprint for future airport development, in accordance with design standards and safety requirements and allows the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) to plan for the funding of the projects based on priorities. As such, future development projects must be consistent with the ALP in order to be eligible for State and Federal funding.

The ALP is expected to be implemented in phases over a 20-year planning period. The ACIP established development phases according to the existing and projected levels of aviation activity to support the short and long-range needs of Robertson Airport. The ALP should be updated every five to ten years, or as necessary.

This report provides the Narrative Report and ACIP to accompany the Airport's first formal ALP.