

PUBLIC NOTICE
AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SHORT FORM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
TRI-CITIES AIRPORT, BLOUNTVILLE, TENNESSEE

The Tri-Cities Airport Authority intends to submit to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) a request for Federal funds to assist the Tri-Cities Airport in implementing the following project and mitigation:

The Sponsor's Proposed Action (SPA) includes the purchase of 120 aviation easements (totaling approximately 424 acres) to comply with FAA's Grant Assurances 20 (Hazard Removal and Mitigation) and 21 (Compatible Land Use). Acquisition of these easements will allow the Airport to control the airspace over land adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the Airport so that it is consistent with activities and purposes compatible with normal airport operations. These easements will be acquired over properties with trees that are within 125 feet of the 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 77 Surface applicable to each runway. This allows the Airport to trim or remove trees that have or may become obstructions and control any future obstructions to the FAA-required approach surfaces to Runways 5, 23, 9, and 27 as defined by, but not limited to, TERPS and FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5300-13A. The SPA also allows the Airport to maintain current runway lengths and operating capabilities to serve existing aviation users mentioned in the Airport Reference Code (ARC) C-III.

The FAA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on November 7, 2019, for the proposed project. Since the issuance of the FONSI, the airport has begun to pursue easements identified as penetrations to their approach surfaces. While pursuing easements, the Airport determined that providing landowners with height compatible replacement trees would help in the easement negotiation process. Since the tree replacement (mitigation) option wasn't assessed in the original NEPA document or FONSI, an amended FONSI is being pursued. By only allowing height compatible tree replacement, the mitigation continues to comply with the purpose of and need for the Airport proposed project. This also allows the Airport to comply with FAA's approach surface guidelines and maintain a safe and efficient airfield.

Concurrently with the easement acquisition, affected landowners will be approached regarding vegetation removal options, which will include mitigating the tree removal through replacement at a 2:1 replacement ratio. Landowners who request replacement vegetation will be offered a predetermined list of approach surface height-compatible, ecologically appropriate trees to select from. Tree replacement and planting locations will be discussed and agreed upon during easement acquisition.

A Draft Short Form Environmental Assessment has been prepared and is available for review on the following webpage, <https://www.greenwood.in.gov/division/index.php?structureid=37> If you are unable to access the website, please contact the Airport to make alternative viewing arrangements.

This document will be available for review for thirty (30) days following the publication of this notice. Interested persons and agencies may request a public hearing and/or provide comments, using the comment form at the link above. A public hearing request and/or comments should be submitted in writing to:

Todd Hensley
Chairman
Tri-Cities Airport Authority
2525 Tennessee Hwy 75
Blountville, TN 37617

If a public hearing is requested, the public would be offered the opportunity to present written and /or verbal testimony in favor of, or in opposition to the proposed action documented in the Draft Short Form Environmental Assessment. An opportunity for concerned citizens to ask questions would also be provided. Any requests must be received and/or postmarked no later than close of business on May 31, 2022.

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