



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

### File Number:

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**Agenda Item Number: 5**

**Agenda Date:** November 18, 2021

**In Control:** City Council A Session

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**DEPARTMENT:** Aviation Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Jesus H. Saenz Jr.

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

Strategic Development Plan for the San Antonio International Airport

**SUMMARY:**

An ordinance approving the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the San Antonio International Airport, which includes recommendations to guide the future development of the airfield, terminal facilities and supporting infrastructure over the next 20 years. Approval of the SDP will allow the City to submit to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for review and evaluation. The projects and programs identified in the Strategic Development Plan will require development, engineering, and construction services which will be included for consideration by City Council during the annual budget process.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In 2018, the City took the opportunity to initiate a data-driven Strategic Development Plan which produced a 20-year Master Plan for the San Antonio International Airport. Mayor Ron Nirenberg appointed the Airport System Development Committee (ASDC), chaired by John Dickson, to evaluate the capacity of San Antonio International Airport and other local airports to accommodate the region's growth and long-term air service needs. The ASDC was tasked with

taking the data gathered by the consultant and assessing our current facilities and infrastructure, the requirements of expansion, and ultimately what will be needed to meet the needs of our region and develop data-driven recommendations.

The first phase of the SDP determined the current location of the Airport could handle the anticipated air travel and infrastructure needs of the community over the next 20 to 50 years. These findings were shared at four Public Open Houses in quadrants throughout the City as well as with the Airport Advisory Commission. City Council was briefed on October 31, 2018 during a B Session presentation given by the ASDC Chairman and Airport Director and approved moving forward with the second phase of the SDP to identify, analyze, and ultimately recommend to Council the projects and timeline to meet the future air traffic needs of the community.

The second phase of the SDP developed the alternatives and final recommendations for the SDP. These included a myriad of public outreach efforts to gather community input, both in-person and digitally. Throughout the entire SDP planning process, information was made available on the dedicated SDP website (<https://flysanantonio.com/business/about-saas/strategic-development/>) which allowed residents to ask questions, provide input, read reports and learn about upcoming events.

The goals for the development of recommendations included addressed airfield, terminal, roadway and supporting infrastructure improvements, including:

- Enhancing safety in all areas
- Accommodating non-stop flights to farther international destinations and optimizing the capacity of existing runways
- Increasing aircraft gates for increased amount of flights
- Providing an enhanced passenger experience through facilities able to handle increased passenger growth in the terminal facilities, parking and reduced vehicular congestion
- Ensuring a sense of place
- Incorporating technology and innovation

## **ISSUE:**

The Strategic Development Plan recommends the following implementation plan that will require approval of the City Council through the annual budget process and whose timing will be based on the current and forecasted passenger growth:

### **Phase 1 (Now through 2026)**

- Construction of three new gates and expansion of the baggage handling system (already approved by City Council)
- Advanced planning and environmental services for projects in current and future phases such as new terminal, parking/intermodal center and airfield expansion
- Air cargo expansion
- Expansion of the electrical capacity

Phase 2 (2027-2030):

- Phased construction for a new terminal and parking/intermodal center
- Terminal roadway realignment to reduce congestion
- Planning and design for Terminal A improvements and parking garage expansion
- Construction of the consolidated receiving/distribution facility

Phase 3 (2031-2035)

- Terminal A renovation and reconstruction of south concourse
- Design of centralized checkpoint and Terminal A north concourse
- Relocation of Air Traffic Control Tower
- Construction of parking garage expansion

Phase 4 (Beyond 2035)

- Construction of centralized checkpoint and reconstruction of Terminal A north concourse
- Construction of new airport entrance from Loop 410

This plan has been shared with the public throughout its development including the four Public Open Houses during Phase 1 and two Public Open Houses in October 2021 which included the final recommendations. Additionally, staff has provided, and will continue to provide briefings on these recommendations to neighborhoods and community and business organizations throughout our region. Throughout the process, information has been shared on the website and mailings.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

City Council could choose not to adopt the Strategic Development Plan and explore other alternatives for the San Antonio International Airport. However, this process is in accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration's approved process and included a robust public outreach effort to ensure opinions and comments were considered and responded to.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This ordinance does not have a fiscal impact. Any project or process that is developed under the Strategic Plan will require approval of City Council through the City's Budget Process.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the approval of the Strategic Development Plan for the San Antonio International Airport and the submittal of the plan to the Federal Aviation Administration.