



Rhode Island Airport Corporation

April 10, 2002

Dear Reverend Clinker:

The Rhode Island Airport Corporation and the Federal Aviation Administration thank you for your letter dated January 29, 2002 on the Preliminary Draft Affected Environment chapter of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It is obvious that you spent considerable time reading the document and providing your input on the noise, social, socioeconomic, and air quality sections. Because of the difference between the Master and EIS process, this letter explains the EIS process and the two opportunities within the EIS for the public to provide input to the FAA: the Scoping Meeting and comment period, and Draft EIS Public Hearing and comment period.

Please note that the EIS process, which is governed by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, is entirely separate from the Master Plan process. In contrast to the Master Plan, which is sponsored by RIAC, the FAA is the sponsor for the EIS. The documentation of baseline conditions in the EIS Affected Environment chapter was conducted in accordance with the regulations in FAA Orders 5050.4A and 1050.1D.

The public and agency Scoping Meetings will be held on July 25, 2002, and the scoping comment period will end on August 26, 2002. At these meetings, the EIS process, purpose and need, and alternatives will be explained. The scoping process affords the agencies and the public the opportunity to contribute to the direction of project study and content and to contribute information that could be relevant to the proposed project. The FAA will review input from the agencies and the public received through the scoping process and determine if the EIS scope will be amended to include additional analysis. Input received on the scope during this time period will become a part of the public record.

A formal Public Hearing will be held when the draft EIS is completed. Comments received at the Public Hearing and during the 60-day comment period on the substance of the Draft EIS will be reviewed by the FAA to determine if revision to the document or additional analysis is necessary. A written response to the comments received during the Public Hearing and comment period on the Draft EIS will be provided in the Final EIS document.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Cheston
Executive Director

cc: Master Plan Study Resource Committee
Raleigh Jenkins

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