FUTURE AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

The Salt Lake City Department of Airports’ (SLCDA) Master Plan was previously prepared in 1998 and laid out the vision for a new terminal and concourse facilities. Over the past two decades, SLCDA focused on implementing that vision. In the fall of 2020, SLCDA finished construction of Phase 1 of The New SLC, a redevelopment program for Salt Lake City International Airport (SLCIA), including a new parking garage, passenger terminal, and portions of Concourses A and B. As SLCDA implements Phase 2 of The New SLC, the airport Master Plan updates the strategic vision for Salt Lake City International Airport. The emphasis of this facility plan is finding an ultimate balance of airfield and supporting facilities to match future passenger demand.

This Master Plan provides guidance for future airport development to optimize SLCIA’s existing facilities, satisfy future aviation demand, and increase airport capacity in a financially responsible manner. At the same time, the plan is responsive to environmental and socioeconomic conditions that exist in the community. To achieve the new vision, incremental improvements were identified that will increase airfield efficiency and maximize capacity of the existing runway system, roadways, vehicle parking, and support facilities when implemented. Various potential development solutions were identified and evaluated to ensure airport facilities are capable of meeting projected activity demand levels, are making efficient and effective use of available airport land and are meeting FAA airfield design standards. Each individual facility improvement was thoroughly analyzed, refined, and vetted through a stakeholder involvement process to update the Airport’s Strategic Vision. This updated vision reflects stakeholder preferences and community values and integrates well with the unique operational nature and role of Salt Lake City International Airport.

This conceptual facility plan illustrates how SLCDA will balance passenger demand with airfield, landside, and facility projects to improve operational efficiency, enhance safety, reduce aircraft carbon emissions, and increase the overall capacity of the airport. The primary tenet of the vision is to implement projects that optimize ground operations, which will increase efficiency and hourly throughput while improving airspace procedures. Additionally, the vision includes the ultimate realignment of Runway 17-35, which is a key component of long-range capacity enhancement to support a future Concourse C.

The future airport plan, as depicted in the Strategic Vision, will be achieved through incremental development. Facility improvements are dependent on how growth and demand ultimately occur at SLCIA. Projects will be implemented only
as demand warrants to allow SLCDA to remain fiscally responsible and flexible as market conditions change. Each facility improvement depicted corresponds to a specific objective within the plan and may begin concurrently with other projects.

The graphic illustrates the locations of projects and facilities included in the recommended development plan. Although a third parallel runway and Concourse C are shown, this Master Plan determined they are not needed within the next 20 years planning horizon. Projects outlined in the Master Plan will be implemented based on levels of activity, referred to as planning activity levels (PALs). If activity does not occur as quickly as anticipated, the projects remain valid, although the timing of the implementation may change. The Master Plan serves as a pragmatic, long-range guide for the community and airport leadership to use as aviation demand continues to grow throughout the next 20 years and beyond.

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