

Lea County Regional Airport Airport Master Plan





AGENDA

PAC Meeting #1 | May 7th, 2024

1. Purpose of the Master Plan
2. Master Plan Process
3. Role of the Planning Advisory Committee
4. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, & Threats
5. Open Discussion/Questions





PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

- ▶ Provides a visioning document to guide Lea County, along with other decision makers, regarding the future development of the airport over the next 20+ years
- ▶ Evaluates and outlines proper response to the airport's current aviation demand and future potential
- ▶ Addresses local, regional, and national changes in the aviation industry that could impact the development of the airport
- ▶ Identifies and plans for potential capital projects well in advance so proper coordination, approvals, financing, design, and construction can take place in a timely manner
- ▶ Obtains approval of new aviation demand forecasts and an updated Airport Layout Plan (ALP)
- ▶ Increases stakeholder/public awareness of the airport's goal and objectives



WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

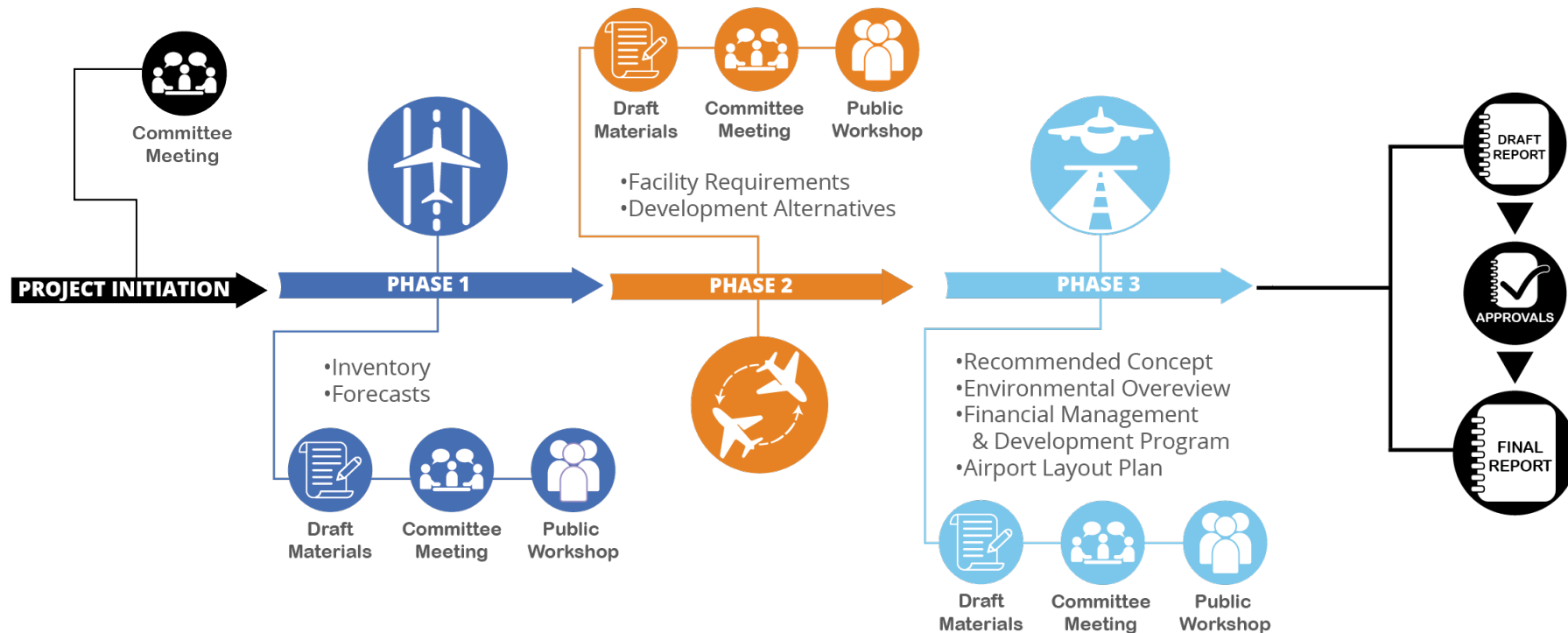
An Airport Master Plan is:

- ✓ A comprehensive, long-range study of the airport and all air and landside components that describes plans to meet FAA safety standards and future aviation demand.
- ✓ Required by the FAA to be conducted every 7-10 years to ensure plans are current and reflect present conditions and FAA regulations. The most recent Master Plan was completed in 2007.
- ✓ Funded by the FAA through the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), which provides 93.75% of the total project costs. The remaining 6.25% is funded by New Mexico Department of Transportation - Aviation Division (NMDOT) and Lea County, which is split 50/50.
- ✓ A document that will ultimately be presented for approval and adoption by Lea County. FAA approves only two elements of the Master Plan, the Aviation Demand Forecasts and the Airport Layout Plan (ALP drawing set).
- ✓ An opportunity for airport stakeholders and the general public to engage with airport staff on issues related to the airport and its current and future operations, and environmental and socioeconomic impacts. Up to three (3) public information workshops will be conducted throughout the Master Plan process to facilitate this public outreach effort.

An Airport Master Plan is not:

- ✗ A guarantee that the airport will proceed with any planned projects. Master Plans are guides that help airport staff plan for future airport development; however, the need/demand for certain projects may not ever materialize.
- ✗ A guarantee that Lea County, NMDOT, or the FAA will fund any planned projects. Project funding is considered on a project-by-project basis and requires appropriate need and demand. Certain projects may require the completion of a benefit-cost analysis.
- ✗ Environmental clearance for any planned projects. The Master Plan includes an environmental overview that identifies potential environmental sensitivities per the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA); however, most planned projects will require a separate NEPA study (Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Assessment/Categorical Exclusion) prior to construction.

MASTER PLAN PROCESS





ROLE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

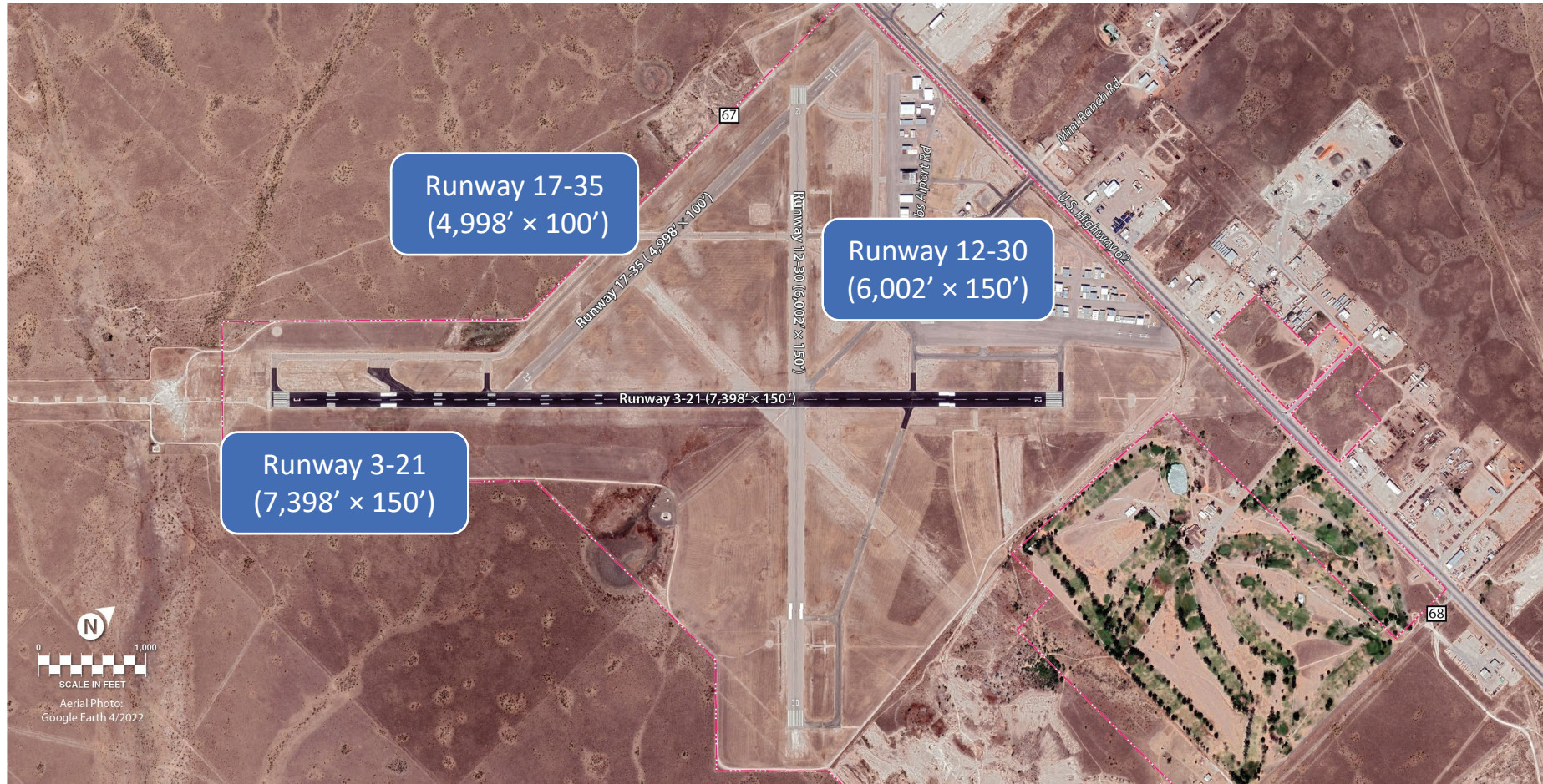
- ▶ The **purpose** of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) is to provide Lea County and the planning consultant (Coffman Associates) with input into the Master Plan.
- ▶ The **members** of the PAC are intended to represent a variety of organizations and individuals with interest in the use and development of Lea County Regional Airport. These include governmental interests, aviation and non-aviation interests, and area economic development interests. It is the responsibility of PAC members to communicate with their respective organizations and report any comments or concerns regarding the development of Master Plan back to the committee, the city, and the planning team throughout the process.
- ▶ The **role** of the PAC is to review elements of the study while they are in draft form and comment on the accuracy of the assumptions and relevance of the information used to develop the Master Plan. The PAC is a *non-voting advisory body*. While all comments made by the committee members will be considered by the planning team in developing the draft and final versions of the master plan, the PAC will not vote to approve or disapprove elements of the study.



ROLE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

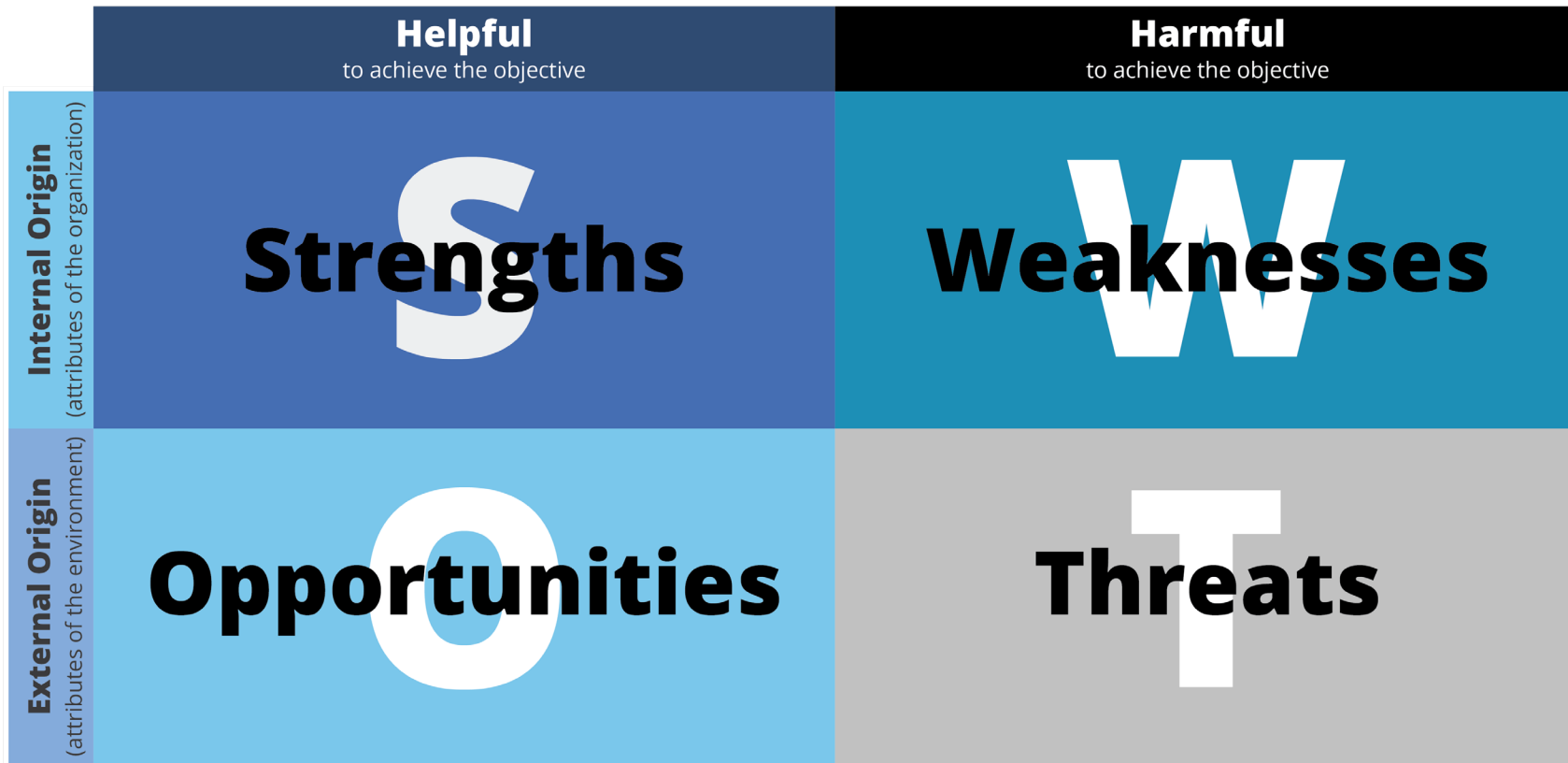
- ▶ **Committee meetings** will be held periodically throughout the preparation of the Master Plan. There are a minimum of four (4) meetings planned at this time. Attendance is strongly encouraged. If you are unable to attend any given meeting, please send a representative who can speak for you or your organization. A series of **Public Information Workshops** will be held following committee meetings, and members of the PAC and their organizations are invited to attend.
- ▶ For your convenience, **comment forms** will be provided for PAC members to submit written comments for consideration in preparing the final report. It would be greatly appreciated if comments are submitted within two weeks following the meeting. If this is not possible, contact Coffman Associates and let them know when you plan to submit your comments. Comments can also be submitted online through the project website dedicated to this study: (leacountyregional.airportstudy.net).
- ▶ Comments or questions regarding the PAC, meetings, or working papers should be directed to Matt Quick or Tyler Stuber with Coffman Associates at 816-524-3500.

Airfield System



Landside Facilities





NEXT STEPS

- ▶ **Phase 1 Elements** – Inventory & Aviation Demand Forecasts in progress
- ▶ **PAC Meeting #2** – PAC meeting planned for Winter 2025 to review Phase 1 materials
- ▶ **Public Information Workshop #1** – Same evening as PAC meeting





WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Direct any questions or comments after this meeting to Coffman Associates team members

Matt Quick: mquick@coffmanassociates.com

Tyler Stuber: tstuber@coffmanassociates.com

or visit the project website to submit comments online.

leacountyregional.airportstudy.net

