

# Mayor and Council Communication

**DATE:** 05/21/24

**M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 24-0455

**LOG NAME:** 55FTW MEACHAM AIRPORT TOWER RELOCATION

## **SUBJECT**

(CD 2) Authorize Execution of Memorandum of Understanding and Revocable Right of Entry Permit with the Federal Aviation Administration for the Relocation of the Air Traffic Control Tower at Fort Worth Meacham International Airport

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended the City Council authorize execution of a Memorandum of Understanding and a Revocable Right of Entry permit with the Federal Aviation Administration for the relocation of the Air Traffic Control Tower at Fort Worth Meacham International Airport.

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## **DISCUSSION:**

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication (M&C) is to authorize execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a Revocable Right of Entry Permit (ROE) with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) relative to the relocation, construction, operation and maintenance of a new Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower and associated communications equipment at Fort Worth Meacham International Airport (Airport).

On November 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), was signed into law, allocating \$1.2 trillion in new spending, of which \$5 billion (\$1 billion per year over five years, starting in 2022) is allocated for the upgrade of FAA ATC towers around the United States. These funds will be used for design, site evaluation/preparation and construction for ATC towers requiring replacement over the coming years. ATC towers provide critical air traffic services to arriving, transitioning and departing aircraft that fly in close proximity to the airport.

In May of 2022, the City of Fort Worth (City) Aviation Department was approached by the FAA to discuss the replacement of the Airport's ATC tower. Originally commissioned in 1968, the Airport's ATC tower is one of thirty-one (31) towers nationally that have been selected for replacement and is the only one in Texas. Tower replacement selection was based on the following criteria:

- Facility is FAA-owned and more than 40 years of age.
- Facility is located within the continental United States.
- Facility is a standalone tower that does not have a Terminal Radar Approach Control Facility collocated at the site. Future modular replacements could include a collocated Terminal Radar Approach Control Facility.
- Facility is under 100 feet in height.
- Tier 3 and Tier 4 facilities that support small airports in the United States.

The existing ATC tower cab stands at 54 feet in elevation while the proposed tower will be 120 feet in elevation. The new tower will provide considerable line-of-sight improvements for Air Traffic Controllers and will eliminate multiple visual obstructions to facilities on the Airport. The estimated cost of the new ATC tower, to be funded entirely by the FAA, is \$12,000,000.00.

The attached Memorandum of Understanding reserves approximately 97,000 square feet of airport property for twenty-four (24) months so the FAA can conduct additional reviews that include obstruction evaluation, security and environmental assessments for final determination of location. Also attached is a Revocable Right of Entry Permit which allows the FAA access to the proposed new tower location on the Airfield.

**ADVISORY BOARD APPROVAL** - On April 18, 2024, the Aviation Advisory Board (AAB) voted to recommend the City Council approve the execution of the MOU and ROE.

City of Fort Worth Meacham International Airport is located in COUNCIL DISTRICT 2.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This contract will be with a governmental entity, state agency or public institution of higher education: Federal Aviation Administration

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## **FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:**

The Director of Finance certifies that approval of this recommendation will have no material effect on City funds.

**Submitted for City Manager's Office by:** Valerie Washington 6199

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