City of Fort Worth, Texas

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 03/10/26 **M&C FILE NUMBER:** M&C 26-0191

LOG NAME: 55FTW FY26 BIL AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBJECT

(CD 2) Authorize Application for and Acceptance of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Fiscal Year 2026 Airport Infrastructure Grant, if Awarded, from the Federal Aviation Administration Passed through the Texas Department of Transportation in an Amount Up to $675,000.00 for Construction of the Runway 16-34 Rehabilitation, Taxiway Tango Construction, and the Instrument Landing System Improvements Project at Fort Worth Meacham International Airport, Authorize a Transfer of Up to $75,000.00 for the City's Match Requirement, for a Total Amount Up to $750,000.00, Adopt Appropriation Ordinance, and Adopt Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Grant Related Agreements with the State of Texas, Represented by the Texas Department of Transportation

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RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Authorize the application for and acceptance of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Fiscal Year 2026 Airport Infrastructure Grant, if awarded, from the Federal Aviation Administration, passed through the Texas Department of Transportation, in an amount up to $675,000.00 for construction of the Runway 16-34 Rehabilitation, Taxiway Tango Construction, and the Instrument Landing System Improvements project at Fort Worth Meacham International Airport;
2. Adopt the attached appropriation ordinance increasing estimated receipts and appropriations in the Muni Airport Grants Federal Fund in an amount up to (1) $675,000.00, subject to the receipt of the grant, and (2) $75,000.00 as a transfer from the Municipal Airport Capital Project Fund to satisfy the City's match requirement, totaling $750,000.00, for the purpose of funding the construction of the Runway 16-34 Rehabilitation, Taxiway Tango Construction, and the Instrument Landing System Improvements project at Fort Worth Meacham International Airport; and
3. Adopt the attached resolution as required by the Texas Department of Transportation, authorizing the City Manager or his designee to execute all necessary contracts associated with this project with the Texas Department of Transportation.

DISCUSSION:

On November 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), was signed into law, allocating $1.2 trillion in new spending of which $550 billion will go towards investment in our nation’s core infrastructure priorities including roads and bridges, rail, transit, ports, airports, the electric grid, water systems and broadband. The infrastructure bill includes $15 billion for airport infrastructure grants over five years with $3 billion to be distributed annually. Of this amount, $12.4 billion would go to commercial service airports and $2.5 billion for nonprimary commercial service and general aviation airports.

These funds will be available for:

- Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Grants for runways, gates and taxiways that increase safety and expand capacity;
- Airport Terminal Improvement program for terminals, concessions and multimodal connections for increased terminal energy efficiency and accessibility; and
- Air Traffic Control infrastructure to replace facilities and equipment and improve safety, security and environmental standards.

Based on the classification provided by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Fort Worth Meacham International Airport (Airport) is eligible to receive up to $675,000.00 under the program for this Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). Per the FAA, the IIJA will provide “funding to modernize infrastructure, increase equity in transportation, help fight climate change, strengthen the supply chain and create jobs.” Additionally, these grants will operate under the same guidelines as the FAA’s AIP which requires specific projects to be identified on the sponsor’s application. FY26 is anticipated to be the final year of IIJA-supported allocations.

Funding from the FY26 IIJA grant will be used for construction of the Runway 16-34 Rehabilitation, Taxiway Tango Construction, and Instrument Landing System (ILS) Improvements project (Project) at the Airport.

In January of 2024, a nondestructive pavement assessment was conducted on Runway 16-34 (Runway), which provided a detailed engineering evaluation of current conditions. While much of the Runway remains in good shape, the evaluation revealed some linear cracking, shattered concrete slabs, failed asphalt shoulders and a Runway Safety Area (RSA) that does not meet FAA design standards.

This information was shared with the Texas Department of Transportation - Aviation Division (TxDOT) in Spring of 2024 to support long-term planning and maintenance of the Runway. Following ongoing discussions with TxDOT and the FAA, the Aviation Department has received confirmation that funding for significant improvements to the Runway is advancing.

Along with improvements to the Runway and the RSA, this Project will also consist of constructing a new parallel Taxiway Tango (Taxiway) on the southwest side of the Airport, replacing Taxiway Sierra (Sierra) and Taxiway Whiskey (Whiskey). Not only has the pavement on Sierra and Whiskey reached the end of its useful life, but these taxiways provide direct access to the Runway, which is considered a non-standard safety issue with the

FAA.

The Aviation Department is also working with the FAA to upgrade the FAA-owned Instrument Landing System (ILS) equipment while the Runway is rehabilitated.

While IIJA funding is anticipated to require a 95/5 cost-share, the FAA retains discretion to award eligible projects under alternate AIP funding categories, which may require a 90/10 cost-share. To ensure timely acceptance of the grant award and avoid project delays, approval of City participation of up to a 10% local match is requested, should the FAA determine a higher match is required at the time of award.

Since no City salaries will be charged, indirect cost recovery does not apply.

Upon award, the grant will increase funding to the Muni Airport Grants Federal Fund as shown below:

Fund	Appropriation Amount	Original Budget
Muni Airport Grants Federal Fund	$675,000.00	$675,000.00
Municipal Airport Capital Project Fund (City Match)	$75,000.00	$75,000.00
Project Total	$750,000.00	$750,000.00

Funding is budgeted in the Capital Intrafund Transfer Out account in the Municipal Airport Capital Project Fund for the Aviation Department.

The grant application repository number is GRNT-APPL-0000000179.

ADVISORY BOARD APPROVAL - On January 29, 2026, the Aviation Advisory Board voted to recommend that the City Council approve the application for and acceptance of this grant.

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: Texas Department of Transportation

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FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that upon approval of the above recommendations and adoption of the attached appropriation ordinance, funds will be available in the current capital budget, as appropriated, in the Muni Airport Grants Federal Fund for the Construction of the Runway 16-34 Rehabilitation, Taxiway Tango Construction, and the Instrument Landing System Improvements Project. The Aviation Department (and Financial Management Services) will be responsible for the collection and deposit of funds due to the City. Prior to an expenditure being incurred, the Aviation Department has the responsibility to validate the availability of funds. This is a reimbursement grant.

Submitted for City Manager's Office by:	Valerie Washington	6199
Originating Business Unit Head:	Roger Venables	5402
Additional Information Contact:	Sasha Kane	5404