

**U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration**

Palm Beach County Department of Airports

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR RUNWAY
EXTENSION AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AT NORTH PALM BEACH COUNTY
GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC HEARING
and
Notice of Impacts to Wetlands
and
Notice of Impacts to Department of Transportation, Section 4(f), Recreation Resources
and Draft De Minimis Determination**

Proposed Project: Extension of Runway 14-32 and related improvements at the North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport, located at 11600 Aviation Blvd., West Palm Beach, Florida 33412.

Sponsor: Palm Beach County Department of Airports (PBCDOA)

Project Description: Major components of the Proposed Project are summarized below. Additional information is provided in the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA).

- Extend Runway 14-32 and Taxiway F approximately 1,700 feet to the northwest. This would increase the runway's length from 4,300 feet to 6,000 feet (and increase of 1,700 feet). The runway would be widened from 75 feet to 100 feet and the centerline shifted 60 feet to the southwest. Portions of existing runway and taxiway pavement would be improved (e.g., milled and overlaid) to match the new pavement.
- Clear vegetation and objects to construct the runway and taxiway Safety Areas and clear vegetation within the runway and taxiway Object Free Areas. Trim trees and vegetation, as needed, that penetrate the new airspace and runway approach/departure surfaces.
- Install new and/or relocate runway and taxiway edge lights, threshold lights; signage; and visual approach aids. Modify existing or develop new non-precision instrument approach procedures for Runway 14. Construct an Air Traffic Control Tower.
- Relocate a section of Aviation Road and Sweetbay Natural Area service road.

Summary of Impacts:

The Proposed Project is expected to directly impact approximately 12.56 acres of wetland habitat. Protected species are not expected to be significantly impacted by the Proposed Project however it has been determined that the project '*May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect*' listed wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) due to the potential loss of suitable foraging habitat (SFH). Based on the evaluation in this Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), the Proposed Project is not anticipated to result in significant impacts across any evaluated resource category.

Pursuant to Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, notice is given that the Proposed Project would require filling approximately 12.56 acres of wetlands. As discussed in the Draft EA, necessary permits will be acquired, and mitigation will be provided.

Pursuant to Section 4(f) of the *Department of Transportation Act* (49 U.S.C. § 303), notice is given that the Proposed Project would limit access to approximately 4 acres of land within the Sweetbay Natural Area located northwest of the airfield and approximately 6.7 acres of land within the parcel of Loxahatchee Slough Natural Area that adjoins the south side of the airport. No marked trails or facilities would be affected, and the areas would maintain functionality for habitat conservation. The FAA has reviewed the project's effects on the recreation areas, and proposed mitigation, and has prepared a draft Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination (Draft EA Appendix G). FAA will make a final determination after considering public comments.

Draft EA Availability

Beginning **April 9, 2024**, the Draft EA and its appendices will be available for public review on the County's website at <https://www.pbia.org/general-aviation/north-palm-beach-county-airport/>. Copies of the Draft EA will also be available for review during regular business hours at the following locations:

Signature Flight Support at North Palm Beach County Airport
11600 Aviation Rd
West Palm Beach, FL 33412

North Palm Beach Library
303 Anchorage Dr
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Public Information Workshop and Public Hearing

A combined Public Information Workshop and Public Hearing will be held on **May 14, 2024**, at the following:

Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens Campus
Multi-Purpose Room SC-127
3160 PGA Boulevard
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

The Public Information Workshop will be conducted from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. A series of informational display boards at the Workshop will provide an overview of the Proposed Project, alternatives evaluated, impacts, and proposed mitigation. PBCDOA representatives will be available during the Workshop to discuss the project. The Workshop will be followed by a Public Hearing that will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude once all comments are made. A court reporter will be available at the Workshop for those wishing to record their comments verbally, and to record comments provided during the Public Hearing.

Opportunity for Public Comment

The County and FAA are soliciting public comments on both the Draft EA and Draft Section 4(f) *de minimis* determination (Draft EA Appendix G). The public comment period will begin on **April 9, 2024**, and will close on **May 21, 2024**. Comments received by PBCDOA must be postmarked by **May 21, 2024**. Written comments may be submitted to PBCDOA at the address below.

Palm Beach County Department of Airports
846 Palm Beach International Airport
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Comments may also be submitted electronically to F45EAComments@esassoc.com. All comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern on **May 21, 2024**. All comments received will be responded to in the Final EA document.

PRIVACY NOTICE: Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations (including language interpreters for Spanish or other languages) to participate in the workshop and Public Hearing is asked to advise PBCDOA at least five (5) working days prior contacting, Michael Giambrone at mgiambrone@pbia.org or (561) 471-7423.