
CHAPTER 5

Public Involvement

5.1 Summary of Public Outreach and Coordination

As outlined in FAA Order 1050.1F, information about the EA must be coordinated with various stakeholders including various government agencies, tribal communities, and the public. The Proposed Action will likely be familiar to many members of the Airport community as the Proposed Action was introduced to the public in two well attended meetings in 2015, and the environmental impacts were initially evaluated in March 2016 and this Environmental Assessment was prepared in response to public input received from the public, local, state, and federal officials as part of outreach summarizing that initial 2016 environmental review. The FAA has been providing updates to both Massport and the Massport Community Advisory Committee on the status of the Proposed Action and FAA's environmental review.

The FAA initiated consultation regarding the Proposed Action under Section 106 and the ACHP's implementing regulations in June 2020 to satisfy Section 106's public involvement requirements in conjunction with the NEPA process. The correspondence included the FAA's proposed finding which was sent to all consulting parties (e.g., local historical commissions, tribal parties, interested parties, and planning commissions) to allow for the 30-day review period prescribed in 36 CFR § 800.5. The correspondence developed by FAA during the consultation process for the assessment of adverse effects to historic resources from the Proposed Action as prescribed in 36 CFR § 800.5 is included in **Appendix E** and is listed below.

- June 2020 – FAA Letter to MHC
- July 2020 – MHC Responding to FAA's Consultation Initiation Letter
- October 2020 – FAA Letter to MHC Proposing APE
- December 2020 – MHC Responding to FAA and Concurring with Proposed APE
- June 2021 – FAA Letters to Historical Commissions, Tribal Parties, Planning Commissions, and Other Interested Parties
- July 2021 – MHC Letter to FAA Requesting Additional Information
- August 2021 – FAA Letter to MHC with Additional Requested Information
- September 2021 – MHC Letter to FAA Asking Additional Project Questions
- October 2021 – FAA Letter to MHC with Additional Answered Questions
- November 2021 – MHC Letter to FAA Identifying Potentially Impacted Historical Properties
- January 2022 – FAA Letter to MHC with Additional Information in Support of FAA's Proposed Finding of No Adverse Effect
- January 2022 – FAA Letter to Interior Secretary with Notification about National Historic Landmarks

On September 21, 2020, the Draft EA was published and its Notice of Availability was published in the Boston Globe, the Boston Herald, and the Patriot Ledger. The notice of the Draft EA availability was provided to key local stakeholders and these notices and publications can be found in **Appendix E** of this document. The full list of these notified stakeholders can be found in **Appendix F**. The Draft EA was made available on the project website starting on September 21, 2020 and was also available at the following libraries:

- Boston Public Library, Central Library, 700 Boylston St, Boston, MA
- Boston Public Library, Codman Square, 690 Washington St, Boston, MA
- Boston Public Library, Fields Corner, 1520 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, MA
- Boston Public Library, Grove Hall, 41 Geneva Avenue, Boston, MA
- Boston Public Library, Lower Mills, 27 Richmond St, Boston, MA
- Boston Public Library, Mattapan, 1350 Blue Hill Avenue, Boston, MA
- Boston Public Library, Roxbury, 149 Dudley St, Roxbury, MA
- Boston Public Library, South Boston, 646 E Broadway, South Boston, MA
- Boston Public Library, South End, 685 Tremont St, Boston, MA
- Milton Public Library, 476 Canton Avenue, Milton, MA
- Thomas Crane Public Library, 40 Washington St, Quincy, MA

A briefing of these findings were also given to members of Congress and local elected officials on September 21 and 22, 2020. The Notice of Availability included the project website address (*FAABostonWorkshops.com*), instructions as to how to comment on the Proposed Action via the project website, information about the Virtual Public Workshops and the complete details about the comment period. The project website allowed interested members of the public the opportunity to review the Draft EA, information about the public comment period, and information about the upcoming public meeting.

Two Public Workshops were held in a “virtual” format on October 23, 2020 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm and October 28, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. During each Public Workshop an informational presentation was followed by a question and answer period during which members of the public shared concerns with members of the FAA and its consultant staff. These questions asked during this question and answer period were not considered official comments on the Draft EA and this fact was announced multiple times throughout the Public Workshop; participants in the Public Workshops were repeatedly encouraged to submit their questions as comments to the Draft EA through email, mail, or the project website All comments were considered equally by FAA and its consultant in the development of the Final EA. Comments could be made via email or mail. In response to a request from the public for additional commenting time, the original planned comment period was extended from the 30 days to 60 days when public comments would be accepted.

There were forty-one comments received in response to the Draft EA including four physical letters, eighteen emails, and nineteen messages submitted through the project website. The comments covered a wide range of categories including ongoing development at the Airport, historic procedures used at the Airport, and multiple impact categories discussed within the Draft EA. The Final EA was updated in response to these comments and Appendix I of the document contains a full directory of the comments received in response to the Draft EA and a written response to every comment.

On May 4, 2022, the Final EA was published and its Notice of Availability was published in the same three newspapers as before, the Boston Globe, the Boston Herald, and the Patriot Ledger. This Notice of Availability will also be available for review in the Federal Register. The Final EA document will be available for review on the project website and will also be available in the same Boston area libraries listed above.

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