



*"The Capital City of the Palm Beaches"*

**Lois J. Frankel**

**Mayor**

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May 4, 2007

Ms. Lindy McDowell  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Orlando Airports Districts Office  
5950 Hazeltine National Drive, Suite 400  
Orlando, Florida 32822

**Re: Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) Airfield Improvement Project  
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – Additional Comments**

Dear Ms. McDowell:

This letter supplements the letter dated March 23, 2007 (attached) in which the City expressed its desire to provide additional comments on the EIS for the PBI expansion project.

In addition to the City's prior comments, the City requests that the FAA consider the following items as part of the EIS for this project:

- The Historic Resources portion of the EIS website does not contain several of the City's historic neighborhoods which are currently impacted by the fanning departure procedure and will be further impacted by the proposed expansion. These historic districts contain some of the finest and oldest architectural structures in the City. This tangible link to the history of West Palm Beach is irreplaceable and this fine craftsmanship in building construction should not be lost. We request that the following historic neighborhoods be included in the EIS: El Cid, Belair, Mango Promenade, Grandview Heights and Flamingo Park.
- The current airport noise monitoring stations do not cover several areas of the City that are currently being impacted by the noise from fanning. The City requests that additional noise monitoring stations be included in these areas in order to accurately determine the current noise levels for those areas and evaluate the potential impact that the proposed expansion would have on these areas.
- The City also has significant concerns on the socioeconomic and fiscal impacts of this proposal. Specifically, the City's concerns deal with the potential loss of community tax base that could result from a potential buyout of additional homes and/or businesses within the City as a result of this proposal. In addition, we are concerned about the loss of personal home equity that our residents may experience due to the

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depreciation of the value of their homes as a result of the airplanes noise and fallout. We request that these socioeconomic and fiscal impacts be evaluated as part of the EIS.

- The City is also quite concerned about the potential loss of existing workforce housing units that could result from a buyout of homes in the areas affected by the proposed expansion. The City requests that the EIS evaluate the potential impact on the loss of workforce housing units as result of this proposal.
- Finally, the City urges you to initiate a comprehensive county-wide airport capacity management plan. As part of this plan, strong consideration should be given to measures that encourage or require that most general aviation planes (smaller aircrafts) currently using PBIA be sent to other airports in Palm Beach County (e.g. Lantana Airport or specially North County Airport). We believe that this would significantly reduce air traffic at PBIA while decreasing the need for any expansions.

Again, we look forward to the FAA incorporating the above issues into the EIS. If you have any questions, please contact Alex Hansen, Senior Planner at (561) 822-1463.

Sincerely,



Lois J. Frankel  
Mayor

Attachment: March 23, 2007 letter from WPB to the FAA requesting an extension of the EIS comment period for the PBIA expansion and providing a preliminary list of comments.

C: Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners  
West Palm Beach City Commissioners  
Congressman Ron Klein  
Senator Bill Nelson  
Ed Mitchell, City Administrator  
Robert Weisman, County Administrator  
Bruce Pelly, Palm Beach International Airport  
Claudia McKenna, Esq, City Attorney  
Alex Hansen, AICP, City Senior Planner  
Dean Reilly, WPB Neighborhood Liaison

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