

June 4, 2013

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Subject: Opportunities for TIA Master Plan Update and Plan Tucson Integration

Mr. Elias:

Tucson Airport Authority (TAA) would like to again thank the City of Tucson for the opportunities throughout the Plan Tucson process to engage in thoughtful policy discussions and the attention towards the significant economic development opportunities provided by Tucson International Airport. We are also grateful for the opportunity to support City staff in understanding the well-developed and long-standing noise abatement and mitigation programs and improvements TAA manages.

We would like to also pass on the exciting news of TAA's Board of Directors' unanimous approval of the 2013 TIA Master Plan Update (please see the following link to review the Plan's executive summary:

http://www.flytucson.com/includes/media/docs/TIA-MPU_-Executive-Summary.pdf).

The significance of this planning effort, like the City's, cannot be overstated as the reach of the Master Plan Update goes beyond conventional airside/landside airport planning. The 2013 TIA Master Plan Update recognizes the critical role the airport environs will play in the future economy of our region, which, given the airport's current annual economic impact of \$3.2 billion, is all the more consequential to how we think of job growth in the City over the next 20 years.

TIA, and its surroundings, is Tucson's core for supply-chain, manufacturing and transportation industries today. Projections for increasing rates of trade growth between the America's ensures that the potential for TIA, well-situated geographically for major import distribution serving the greater southwest, will grow considerably. TIA is primed for the challenge with a highly diverse real estate portfolio ready to meet the industrial needs of today and tomorrow. In the near-term, TIA supports 200 acres of shovel-ready aeronautical industrial sites, as well as 1000+ acres of development-ready off-airfield sites. In the long-term, TIA can support nearly 5000 acres of new industrial development. TAA asks that the City's long-range plans and growth policies identify and leverage TIA's significant resources and existing target industries for attracting new sustainable industries and business to our region.

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The heart of our region's transportation and related commerce is TIA. Our region's pedestrian routes, streets, highways, transit and railroads are its arteries. While significant progress has been made on planning for improving our circulation through enhancing these systems, our region's potential for economic development is now beginning to surpass the infrastructure underpinning the potential growth. Regional infrastructure investment and development affects everyone and will only be realized with strong partnerships between the private and public sectors, as well as acute political awareness of the multi-modal infrastructure deficiencies (freight rail routes and grade separation, interstate connectivity, regional transit and commuter rail, and intercity transit) limiting the region's economic ceiling. The City's long-range plans and growths policies should address these serious roadblocks for sustainable regional job growth.

While infrastructure investment and promotion of airport area commercial and industrial development will undoubtedly benefit the region's quality of life overtime, the near-term benefits of the recommended "airport city" policy approach on the neighborhoods in the airport area are also significant. The TIA Master Plan Update seeks to leverage airport area infrastructure investment and job creation as a tool for empowering the vital neighborhoods and labor force in the airport area. The resulting positive impacts to airport area neighborhoods from additional mobility and more opportunities to access quality jobs are critical. As such, the City's long-range plans and growth policies should also seek to leverage and develop the numerous indirect and direct neighborhood benefits of airport area infrastructure development and job creation.

In closing, we commend the City for its commitment to sustainable community planning, as evidenced through the Plan Tucson process. We encourage the City to look for ways to further enhance how City policies can effect a more efficient and connected regional transportation system, as well as policies for airport-area job creation and community development.

Respectfully,



Bonnie A. Allin, A.A.E.

President/CEO

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