

[Back to document](#)



City to study prospect of bigger airport ; Officials see the Portland International Jetport's terminal as inadequate for today's growing demands.

KELLEY BOUCHARD Staff Writer. *Portland Press Herald* [Portland, Me] 08 Mar 2005: pp. B1.

Abstract (summary)

WHAT'S NEXT PORTLAND'S CITY COUNCIL voted on Monday night to spend \$375,000 for a preliminary design and feasibility study for a possible expansion of the city's airport. A 24-MEMBER committee will be formed to assist with the study and update the jetport's... [Show all](#)

Full Text

WHAT'S NEXT PORTLAND'S CITY COUNCIL voted on Monday night to spend \$375,000 for a preliminary design and feasibility study for a possible expansion of the city's airport. A 24-MEMBER committee will be formed to assist with the study and update the jetport's master plan. THE STUDY is expected to take several months and determine whether an expansion is necessary, how it would affect the community and whether it's economically feasible. ANY EXPANSION COSTS would be funded largely by jetport user fees. City officials say it's premature to estimate the costs.

Portland will spend more than \$1 million to figure out whether its airport terminal should be expanded, and it will seek guidance from surrounding communities in the process.

Officials at the Portland International Jetport say some sort of terminal expansion or redesign is necessary to handle modern passenger loads and increased security demands, especially since two terrorists in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks began their journey here.

The City Council voted unanimously Monday night to spend \$375,000 in airport surplus funds on a preliminary design and feasibility study for a possible expansion.

The council also agreed to establish a 24-member master planning committee to assist with the expansion study and update the jetport's 1994 master plan, which will be funded by a \$660,000 federal grant.

The committee will include residents of Portland neighborhoods near the jetport, as well as representatives from South Portland, Westbrook and Cape Elizabeth.

"It's difficult to navigate through the jetport as it is. It's not efficient. It's not attractive," said Councilor James Cohen, chairman of the council's transportation committee.

Cohen said the study will determine whether an expansion is necessary, how it would affect the community and whether it's economically feasible.

"This is the beginning of a lengthier process," he said.

The study is expected to take several months and will be led by Coffman Associates, airport consultants who specialize in master plans, noise studies and environmental impacts.

City officials say it's premature to estimate the cost of an expansion because the scope of the project could vary widely.

Whatever it costs, an expansion would be funded largely by jetport user fees. Passengers now pay a \$3 facilities charge with every ticket.

Jeffrey Monroe, Portland's director of ports and transportation, said the jetport's use has changed markedly since it was built in 1968.

It has been expanded four times, the last in 1994.

Last year, the jetport handled nearly 1.4 million passengers, surpassing the previous high, set in 1999, by more than 8,000.

The 2004 figure represents an increase of slightly more than 9 percent over 2003.

Perhaps the greatest impact on the jetport came with the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which brought increased security to airports across the United States.

It was particularly significant here because Mohamed Atta and Abdul Aziz Alomari started in Portland, heading to attack the World Trade Center.

Since then, the jetport has added passenger screening areas, parking spaces and a low-cost carrier, Independence Air.

The changes have been made according to federal standards that make planning and construction more difficult and expensive, Monroe said.

"We've squeezed a ton of stuff into a terminal that wasn't built to handle current passenger loads, let alone extra security measures," Monroe said. "Not doing anything isn't an option."

Staff Writer Kelley Bouchard can be contacted at 791-6328 or at: kbouchard@pressherald.com

Indexing (details)

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subjects | Monroe, Jeffrey |
| People | Monroe, Jeffrey |
| Title | City to study prospect of bigger airport ; Officials see the Portland International Jetport's terminal as inadequate for today's growing demands.; [Final Edition] |
| Authors | KELLEY BOUCHARD Staff Writer |
| Publication title | Portland Press Herald |
| Pages | B1 |
| Number of pages | 0 |
| Publication year | 2005 |
| Publication Date | Mar 8, 2005 |
| Year | 2005 |
| Dateline | Portland |
| Section | Local & State |
| Publisher | Portland Newspapers |
| Place of Publication | Portland, Me. |
| Country of publication | United States |
| Source type | Newspapers |
| Language of Publication | English |
| Document Type | NEWSPAPER |
| ProQuest Document ID | 277202426 |
| Document URL | http://libraries.maine.edu/mainedatabases/authmaine.asp?url=/docview/277202426?accountid=17222 |
| Copyright | Copyright 2005 Blethen Maine Newspapers Inc. |
| Last Updated | 2010-06-14 |
| Database | ProQuest Newsstand |

Copyright © 2011 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved. - Terms and Conditions