

Lincoln Regional Airport — Update and Redesign

The Lincoln Regional Airport had its last major upgrade in the 1970's when the present asphalt runway was built to replace the previous gravel airstrip. Since that time, there have been no major upgrades to this facility and in the intervening period, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has updated and raised airport standards, vegetation and changes in structures have created obstructions in the airspace and approaches, and the present runway is showing the signs of its age.

Recognizing that a major update of the facility has necessary to be in compliance with federal safety rules as well as expand utilization of the airport, the Town of Lincoln embarked on a multi-year project to complete these tasks. For most of the last ten years, Lincoln has been engaged with engineers and consultants to explore alternatives, develop plans and technical specifications and begin the process for the airport upgrade. New air rights have been acquired to create alternative approaches, and planning is well underway to complete a major airport improvement project.

The total project cost is estimated at approximately \$4.5 million with 90% of the funds provided by the FAA, an additional 5% contributed by the Maine Department of Transportation, and the final 5% — \$227,500 to be contributed by the Town of Lincoln. The Town Council has voted to include this request for capital investment on the June ballot for consideration by Lincoln voters. Without this approval, the project will not be able to move forward and the community would lose the access to more than \$4 million in federal and state grants.