

**Joint Notice of Public Hearing and 45-Day Public Comment Period
for the
Modification of FAA’s Preferred Airport Alternative
and related actions for the
2018 Final Environmental Impact Statement
Mertarvik Infrastructure Development
Nelson Island, Alaska**

Project: Newtok Airport Relocation
Project No.: CFAPT00310

U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) – Alaskan Region

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) – Central Region Aviation Section

Subject: Modification of FAA Preferred Alternative regarding the Mertarvik Airport component of the 2018 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

Please Note: The relocation of Newtok Airport is an infrastructure component of the 2018 FEIS. Newtok Airport is referred to as “Mertarvik Airport” in the 2018 FEIS.

The comment period described in this public notice relates to the proposed modification of FAA’s FEIS Preferred Alternative to further reduce impacts, to comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and to disclose the results of a modified Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 Wetland Delineation.)

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, the FAA, as a “Cooperating Agency” for the EIS, documented its preferred alternative for construction of an airport at Mertarvik, Alaska to relocate the Newtok Airport. The project website can be found at: <http://newtokairportrelocation.com>.

The existing Newtok Airport is currently threatened by erosion. Additional engineering, design, and studies performed since March of 2018 have refined the design of the airport, reducing overall impacts. Therefore, the FAA is proposing to modify its FEIS selected alternative to a version with less overall impact. The FAA’s original Preferred Alternative, as defined in the Final EIS, can be reviewed at <https://www.denali.gov/> for comparison with the below (see website) proposed Modified Preferred Alternative. The proposed Modified Preferred Alternative is available for public review and comment at the following electronic and physical locations:

The FAA’s Modified Preferred Alternative can be reviewed at:
<http://www.faa.gov/airports/alaskan/environmental/>

The FAA's 2018 FEIS Preferred Alternative can be reviewed within the March 2018 FEIS: <https://www.denali.gov/> (See pages 51-71 for the overall project description and Chapter 5 for the potential effects of airport construction for the original 2018 FAA Preferred Alternative.)

Hard copies can be found at:

- U. S. DOT Alaskan Region Federal Aviation Administration, Airports Division
222 West 7th Avenue #14 Anchorage, Alaska (Airports Division Office, 3rd Floor)
- Alaska Department of Transportation Aviation Division Office
4111 Aviation Avenue, Anchorage Alaska
- Anchorage Public Library
3600 Denali Street, Anchorage, Alaska
- ARLIS Library
Suite 111, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508

This 45-day comment period is open from Monday, June 10, 2019 to Wednesday, July 24, 2019. During this 45-day timeframe, the FAA will accept comments on: the FAA's proposed selection of the Modified Preferred Alternative to reduce overall impacts, the NHPA Section 106 process (including the Area of Potential Effect (APE), identification of historic properties, the resulting determination of no adverse effect on historic properties), and the modified Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 Wetland Delineation. Comments can be submitted as described below or via Public Hearing testimony.

Public Hearing #1 Date: Tuesday July 9, 2019

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Location: Ayaprun School, Newtok, Alaska

Translator: An English to Yupik translator will be available for the hearing.

Public Hearing #2 Date: Thursday July 11, 2019

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location:

Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT&PF) Office

4111 Aviation Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska

Translator: An English to Yupik translator will be available for the hearing.

The FAA encourages all interested parties to provide comments concerning the scope and content of the materials defining the Modified Preferred Alternative. Comments should be as specific as possible and address the analysis of potential environmental impacts and the adequacy of the proposed action or merits of alternatives and the mitigation being considered. Matters that could have been raised with specificity during prior comment periods for the draft or final Environmental Impact Statement may not be considered if they are raised for the first time at this stage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. This

commenting procedure is intended to ensure that substantive comments and concerns are made available to the FAA and DOT&PF in a timely manner so that FAA and DOT&PF have an opportunity to address them.

Before including your address, phone number(s), e-mail address(s), or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publically available at any time as part of NEPA or NEPA- related processes. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

In part this proposed project will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; Executive Orders: 11990 (Wetlands Protection), 11988 (Floodplain Protection), 12898 (Environmental Justice), 11593 (Historic Preservation), 13084 (Consultation and coordination with Indian Tribal Governments), the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and U.S. DOT Act Section 4(f).

Written comments submitted via the U.S. Postal Service will be accepted at either address below:

Brian Elliott, Environmental Manager
DOT&PF, Preliminary Design & Environmental
P.O. Box 196900
Anchorage, AK 99519-6900

Jack Gilbertsen
FAA, Environmental Program Manager
222 W. 7th Ave, #14
Anchorage, AK 99513-7587

Written comments: submit comments to either Brian Elliott, Environmental Manager, DOT&PF, Preliminary Design & Environmental, P.O. Box 196900, Anchorage, AK 99519-6900 or Jack Gilbertsen, FAA, Environmental Program Manager, Alaskan Region, Airports Division, 222 W. 7th Avenue #14, Anchorage, Alaska, 99513-7587, Attention Gordon-Mertarvik. **NOTE: comments submitted via the USPS must be postmarked not later than midnight Wednesday July 24, 2019.**

E-mail: submit comments to either Brian.Elliott@alaska.gov or Keith.gordon@FAA.GOV **NOTE: comments submitted electronically must be electronically received not later than midnight Wednesday July 24, 2019.** Please include “Mertarvik comment” in the subject line
Commentors may use any single method or any combination of above methods to comment.

The DOT&PF operates Federal Programs without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Full Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy: dot.alaska.gov/tvi_statement.shtml. To file a complaint go to: dot.alaska.gov/cvlrts/titlevi.shtml.

The DOT&PF complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this project should contact Aaron Hughes, P.E., Project Manager, at 269-0523 to make necessary arrangements. Individuals with a hearing impairment can contact Relay Alaska at 711 or 800-770-8973 for assistance.