



Community stakeholders meet on advancing IND Aerotropolis plan

Officials collaborate on approaches to creating regional benefits

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indianapolis Airport Authority (IAA) has met with elected officials of communities surrounding the Indianapolis International Airport (IND) to discuss a collaborative approach on the future development of the IND Aerotropolis. As the process moves forward, the IAA desires to meet regularly with officials from the City of Indianapolis; the towns of Plainfield, Avon, and Mooresville; the townships of Decatur and Wayne; and the counties of Hendricks and Morgan.

The group discussed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU), which is intended to kick off efforts to foster the development and implementation of an “Aerotropolis” around IND.

The MOU affirms a joint desire to explore the tremendous opportunities that can be created by a collaborative approach to maximizing the impact of an economic development engine anchored by IND. Such a cooperative approach could include joint marketing efforts, tax incentives, uniform design and development standards, funding, and other initiatives in support of the Aerotropolis development strategy.

It also acknowledges the importance of developing political and civic consensus on this concept, with the eventual goal of formalizing a mutually agreeable, binding interlocal cooperation agreement or similar arrangement that could best leverage the region-wide benefits offered by an Aerotropolis.

“With a collaborative approach to the IND Aerotropolis, participants will be able to anticipate potential challenges and identify mutually beneficial development practices vital to the initiative’s long-term success,” said Indianapolis City-County Councillor Maggie Lewis, who attended the IND Aerotropolis meeting.

“These meetings ensure multiple stakeholders have a voice in maximizing the benefits our entire region receives from the IND Aerotropolis, including job creation and many other significant advantages generated by the airport’s function as an economic hub for Central Indiana,” said Al Bennett, who represents Hendricks County on the IAA board.

“Our discussion supported a collaborative, proactive approach with neighboring communities, which is essential in developing the full potential of the IND Aerotropolis” said Lynn Gordon, representing Morgan County on the IAA board.

An Aerotropolis is an “airport city” in which a collaborative, multimodal approach is leveraged to maximize the ability of an airport to foster economic growth and infrastructure development throughout its surrounding region. In addition to its core air transportation missions, IND Aerotropolis will focus on maximizing airport assets and integrating those with key economic drivers in the region.

Since both the borders and benefits of an Aerotropolis extend well beyond an airport’s property, a proactive and cooperative model is essential, and the IAA has been seeking and forging non-binding MOUs with key stakeholders in the airport’s neighboring communities with the goal of achieving additional strategic partnerships in the future.

The Aerotropolis strategy emerged from land-use discussions the IAA held with elected officials and community leaders from the public and private sectors who joined the IAA’s Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC). These leaders represented various communities adjacent or in close proximity to the IAA and provided input as it conducted a land-use study that was finalized earlier this year.

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