

9 CONCLUSION

This master plan update shows that in order to meet the aviation demand and comply with FAA requirements, the Nome Airport requires improvements. The implementation plan in Chapter 6 sets the stage for future development by identifying sponsor responsibilities, individual project scopes, funding requirements and prerequisites thus allowing proper project sequencing. Based on current economic conditions and federal funding changes, implementation of the recommended improvements will require unique financing instruments with a keen eye toward leveraging all possible funding sources.

Changes in federal policies regarding environmental issues (e.g., storm water, de-icing, air quality), funding priorities (e.g., safety, pavement management, security), and industry regulations, as well as changes in air carrier fleets and aviation technologies, must be monitored to ensure the improvements identified in this master plan remain relevant.

Changes to other projects at the Nome Airport during the course of this master plan update had minimal effect on this plan's analyses, but warrant mention. The flexibility of the master planning process ensured that the issues, deficiencies, and alternatives remain valid and serve as a blueprint for future development.

In addition to this master plan document, a complementary Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database was developed. This database contains data on airport facilities, environmental conditions, relevant documents, and existing infrastructure. The database allows for detailed and complex analysis of data and was used extensively during this master plan update to assess the impacts of future development options.

A comprehensive meteorological analysis was also conducted as part of this master plan update. This included analysis of 10 years of historic weather data as well as additional weather monitoring during the course of this project. This analysis suggests that improvements to the Instrument Landing System (ILS) and other improvements necessary for lower approach minimums at Nome Airport would benefit very few flights. The complete analysis can be found in Section 6 of the accompanying Resource Binder.

Nome Airport will continue to serve as a regional aviation hub indefinitely. Resource exploration, increasing regional populations, and opening of the Northwest Passage will expand the role of Nome and the Nome Airport in the region.