



Yeager Airport

EIS

West Virginia International Yeager Airport Airfield, Safety, and Terminal Improvement Project Environmental Impact Statement

Agency Scoping Meeting

Presented to:

Invited Federal, State, and
Local Agencies and Native
American Tribes

Presented by:

Federal Aviation
Administration and
Ricondo & Associates, Inc.

Presented on:

November 3, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Current Status
- Alternatives
- Environmental Resources
- EIS Schedule and Permitting Timetable



Alternatives Overview



Alternatives Under Consideration

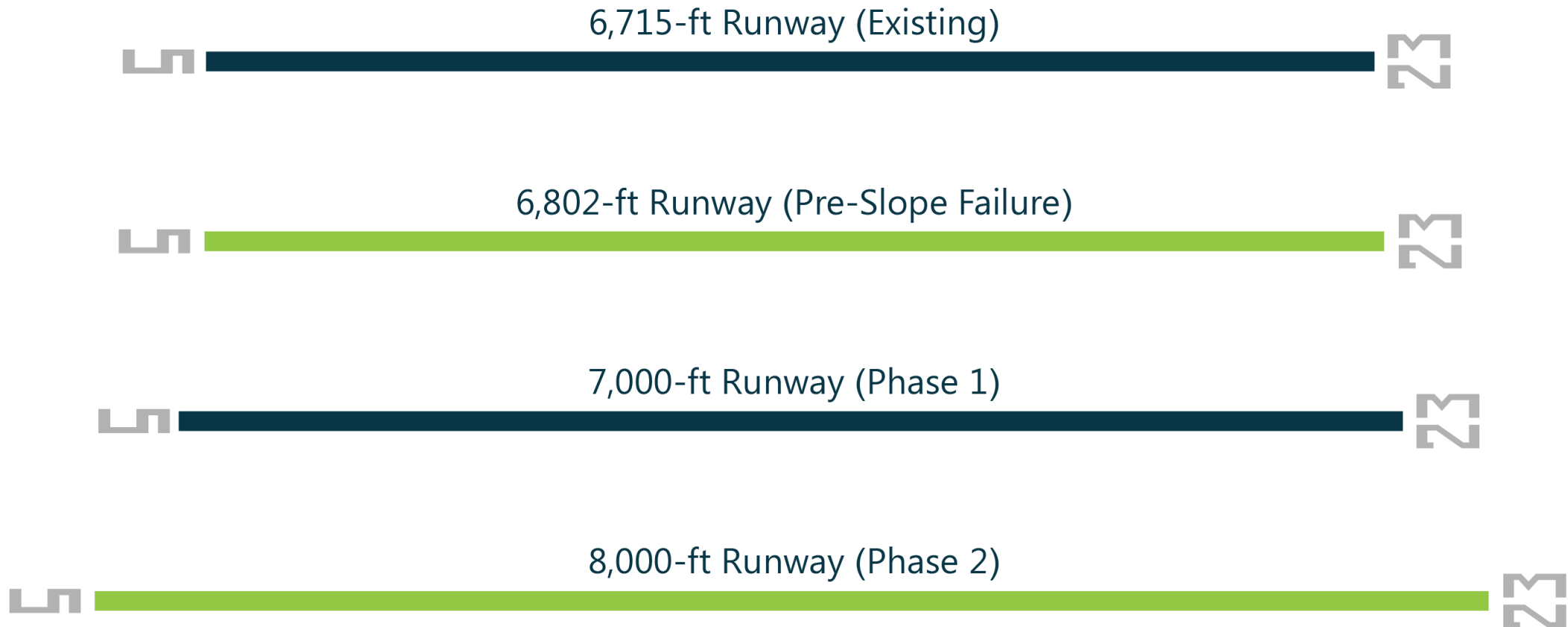
- The FAA will consider a range of alternatives that could potentially meet the purpose and need of the proposed project
- Current alternatives for analysis include:
 - No Action Alternative**
 - Construction of a New Airport
 - Transfer of Aviation Activity to Other Airports
 - Use of Other Modes of Transportation
 - Airport Authority's Proposed Project
 - Runway Alternatives
 - Consideration of Runway Length
 - Consideration of Standard RSA and/or EMAS
 - Consideration of Runway Shift Direction
 - Terminal Alternatives
- Input during the scoping process may identify other alternatives for consideration

FAA will independently evaluate all alternatives brought forward and may identify new alternatives as part of the EIS

** The No Action Alternative is required to be carried forward in accordance with the requirements of NEPA



Runway Alternatives Considerations – Runway Length



Runway Alternatives Considerations – Runway Safety Area

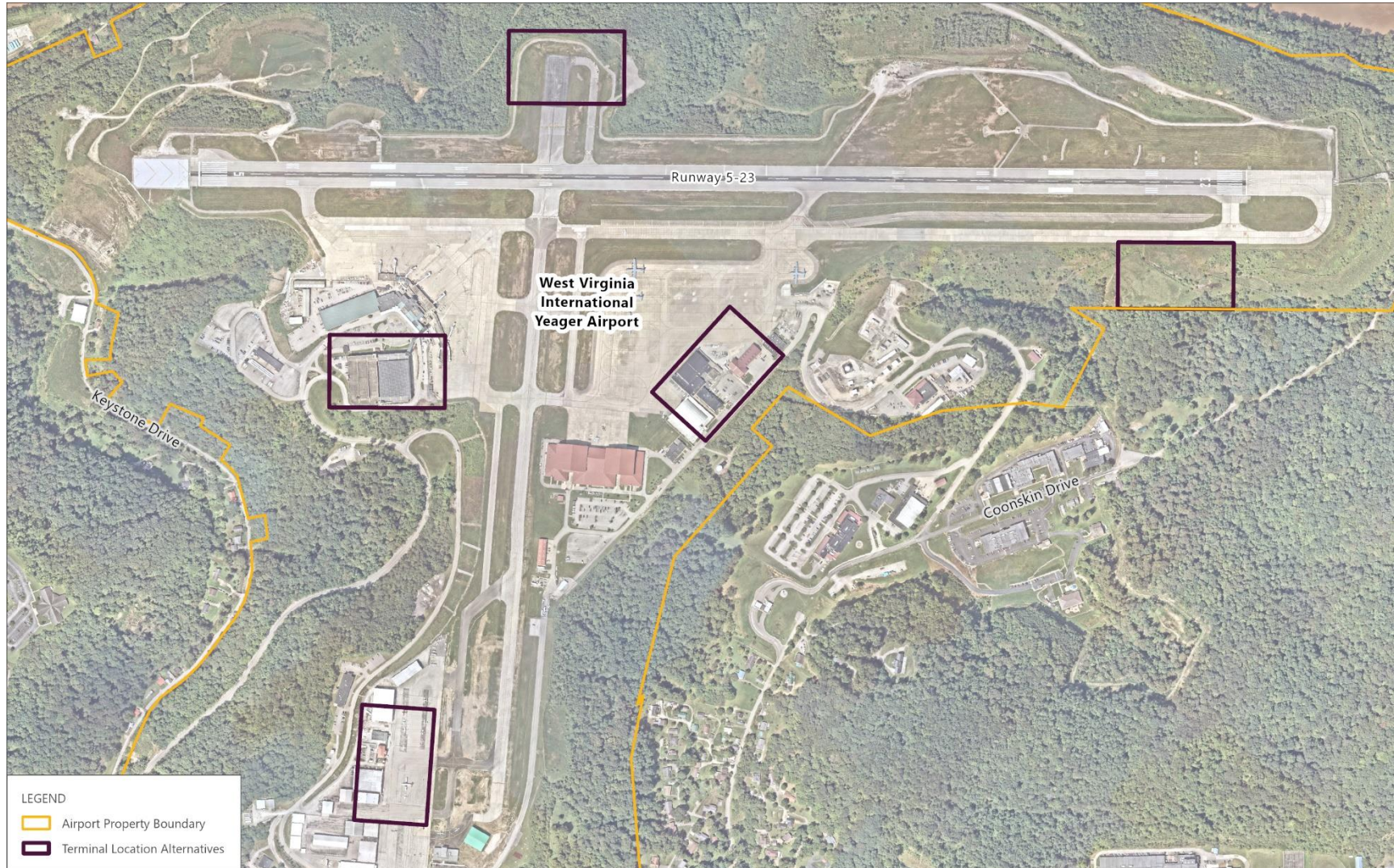


RSA - Runway Safety Area
EMAS - Engineered Material Arresting System

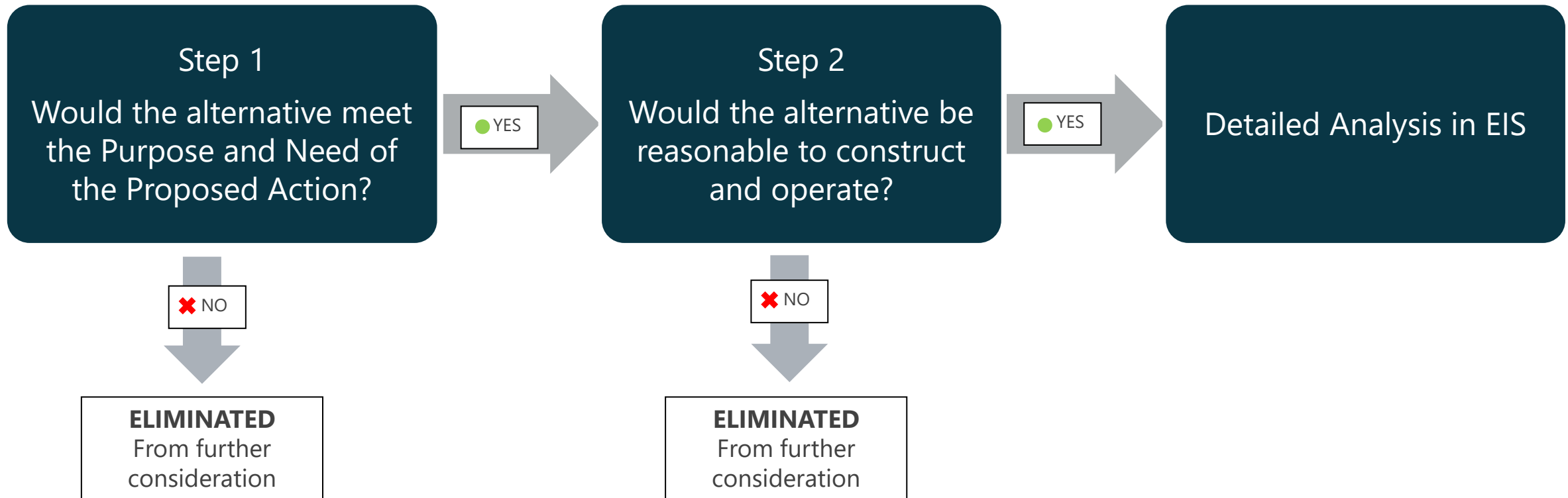
Runway Alternatives Considerations – Runway Shift Direction



Terminal Development Alternatives



Alternatives Screening Process



Alternatives to be Carried Forward

- Concurrence Point #2 – Alternatives to be Carried Forward [January 27, 2023]
- Alternatives that advance through both screening steps (to be analyzed in detail in the EIS) will be developed to preliminary design, which includes, but is not limited to consideration of the following factors:
 - embankment needs
 - the use of retaining walls
 - approach lighting and NAVAIDs
 - location of the borrow site
 - methods of transporting borrow materials to the project site
- Detailed project-specific construction and equipment schedules will be developed for each of the alternatives to be analyzed in detail in the EIS

Environmental Resource Considerations



Environmental Resources to be Studied

Each alternative carried through the EIS will be analyzed for construction and operational impacts with respect to the following environmental resource categories:

- Air quality
- Biological resources (fish, wildlife, and plants)
- Climate
- Parks and other Recreational Resources (Section 4(f) and Section 6(f))
- Farmlands
- Hazardous materials, solid waste, and pollution prevention
- Historical, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources
- Land use
- Natural resources and energy supply
- Noise and noise-compatible land use
- Socioeconomics, environmental justice, and children's environmental health and safety risks
- Visual effects (including light emissions)
- Water resources (including wetlands, floodplains, surface waters, and groundwater)

Coastal resources and wild and scenic rivers are assumed not to be present.



Air Quality/Climate

- Develop and distribute **protocol** document:
 - Protocol will document existing conditions; outline model assumptions, inputs, and methodologies
 - Draft to be distributed to USEPA, WVDEP, and FAA Office of Environment and Energy (AEE)
 - Protocol review/finalization between February and April 2023
- Quantify construction and operational emissions (**inventory**)
- **Compare** inventories to ***de minimis* thresholds** (general conformity applicability analysis) and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
- Formal **general conformity determination**, if required



Biological Resources

- Elk River, Coonskin Branch, and Coonskin Park may have habitat for and support various fish, wildlife, plants, birds.
- Possible presence of 15 threatened and/or endangered mammals, fish, and clams, and 9 species of migratory birds.



SPECIES NAME	LISTED STATUS
Mammals	
Gray bat	E
Indiana bat	E
Northern long-eared bat	T
Virginia big-eared bat	E
Fish	
Candy Darter	E
Diamond Darter*	E
Clams	
Clubshell	E
Fanshell	E
Northern Riffleshell	E
Pink Mucket	E
Rayed Bean	E
Sheepnose	E
Snuffbox	E
Spectaclecase mussel	E
Tubercled Blossom	E

MIGRATORY BIRDS
Bald Eagle
Cerulean Warbler
Eastern Whip-poor-will
Kentucky Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Red-headed Woodpecker
Rusty Blackbird
Wood Thrush
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

** Although the Tri-colored bat is not currently listed as an endangered species, it is a candidate species currently under review for listing.

Biological Resources

- Biological resources inventory to determine presence of Federally-listed threatened and/or endangered species
- Assess the extent of potential impacts to biological resources (biological assessment)
- Consultations with USFWS and WVDNR
- Determination of impacts:
 - “no effect”
 - “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect”
 - “may affect, and is likely to adversely affect”

DOT Section 4(f)

- **Identify properties** (Coonskin Park) and document location, size, activities, patronage, access, unique or irreplaceable qualities, relationship to similarly used lands in the vicinity
- **Document the alternatives** and determine if a permanent, temporary occupancy, or constructive **use** of identified Section 4(f) properties
- Determine if any “use” qualifies as ***de minimis***
- If cannot make *de minimis* impact determination, prepare **Section 4(f)**

Evaluation

- Identify **feasible and prudent avoidance** alternatives
- If no avoidance alternatives exist, identify alternative that causes **least overall harm**
- Incorporate **all possible planning** to minimize harm to Section 4(f) property

Section 6(f) of the LWCF Act

- **Identify properties** (Coonskin Park) that have been developed or improved with monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act
- Determine impacts from project that would **temporarily or permanently** result in a **conversion** of parkland subject to Section 6(f) to an **alternative use**; or result in the **disturbance** of recreational activities fulfilled by Section 6(f) parkland
- Request **permission** and obtain **approval** from the NPS and WVDO if LWCF properties are **converted**, wholly or in part, to **non-recreational use**
- Formal Section 6(f) Evaluation to **analyze all practical alternatives** that would avoid converting the Section 6(f)
- Develop a Section 6(f) **Replacement Property Plan** if impacts cannot be avoided



Farmlands

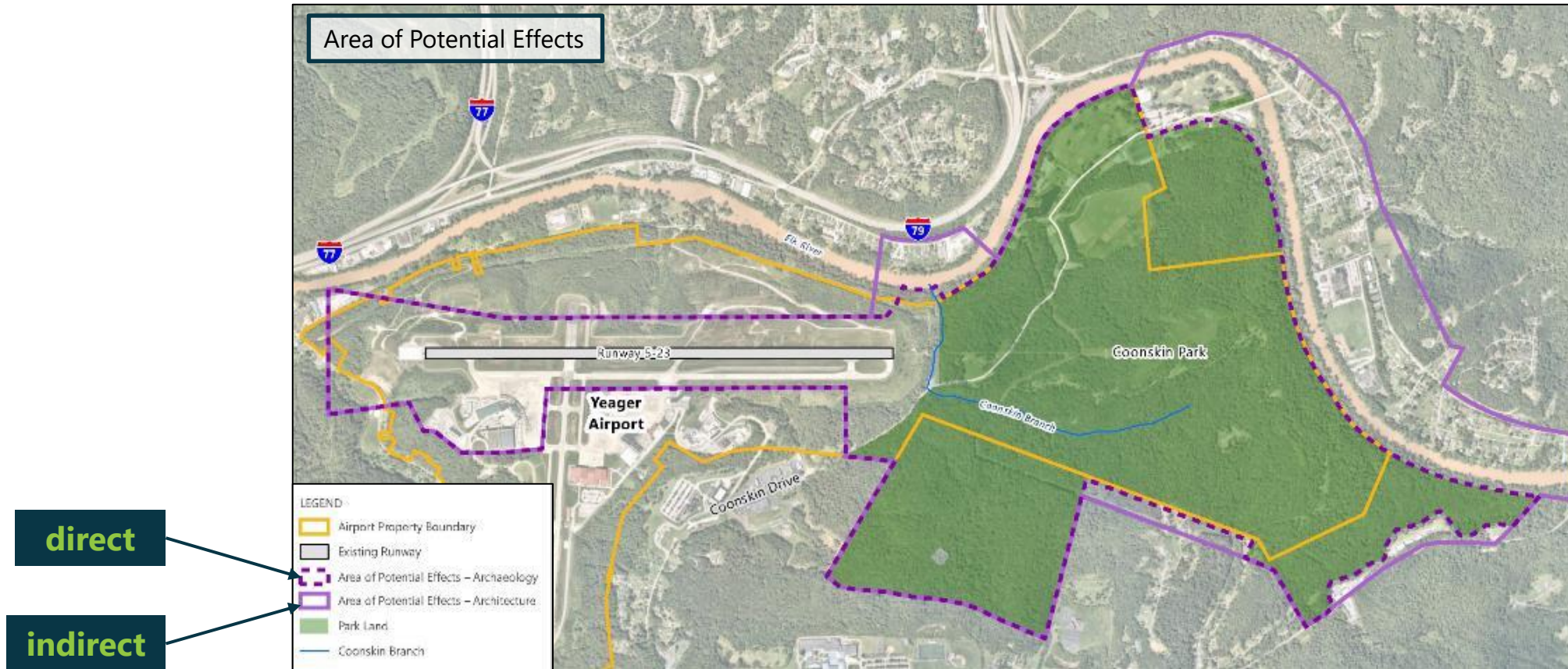
- identify farmlands that are considered to be prime, unique, or of statewide or local importance
- determine if there would be any conversion of farmlands to non-agricultural uses or reduce or eliminate access to those farmlands
- land evaluation and site assessment to determine if impacts are significant

Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste, and Pollution Prevention

- Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment
- analysis to determine proper handling, management, and disposal of hazardous materials, as well as identify mitigation measures for areas of unavoidable impacts

Cultural and Historic Resources

- Formal Section 106 Consultation
- Potential for Archaeological, Architectural, Cultural and/or Historic Resources



Cultural and Historic Resources

- Formal Section 106 Process
- Identify the direct and indirect Area of Potential Effects (APE)
- Identify Consulting Parties, Native American Tribes, and individuals/organizations with a demonstrated interest in history/resources located within the APEs
- Determine if archaeological, architectural, cultural, and/or historic resources are within the APEs
- Determine effects of the proposed project on identified resources
- Engage Consulting Parties throughout process
- If necessary, prepare Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Programmatic Agreement (PA) to resolve adverse effects

Land Use

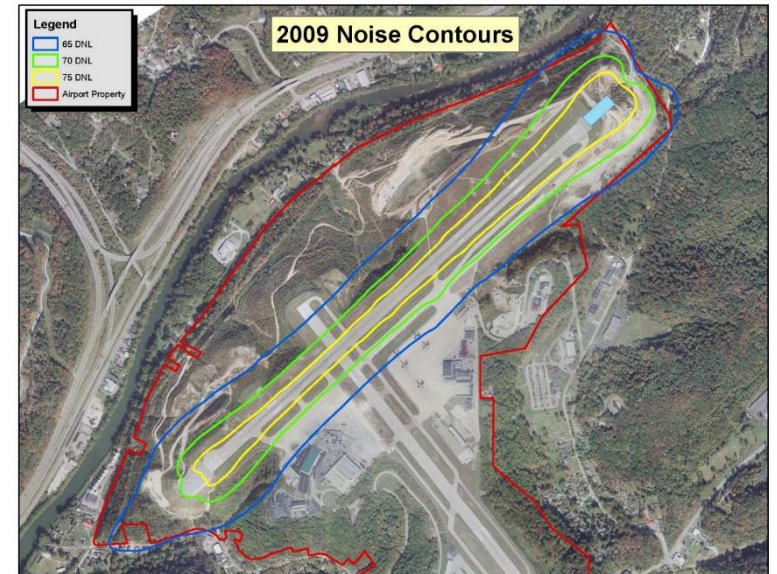
- determine existing local land uses and planned and future land uses
- review for consistency with land use and zoning and all applicable local and state land use plans

Natural Resources and Energy Supply

- identify existing utilities
- quantify utility usage for construction and operation of alternatives
- determine impacts to existing utility providers
- determine any increase in demand to utilities, water, fuel, and consumable materials

Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use

- Develop **protocol document** to:
 - establish models and model inputs (including aircraft information and flight track data)
 - analysis methodologies for the construction and operational elements
 - delineate study area
 - identify non-standard modeling data, metrics, or evaluations, model assumptions and inputs
 - coordinate with USEPA and FAA AEE
- Document **ambient noise levels**
- Quantitative assessment of **construction** activity
- Operational **noise exposure** analysis
- Determine **sensitive land uses**
- Land use **compatibility** analysis



Socioeconomics, EJ, and Children's Health/Safety Risks

- establish baseline conditions, including:
 - the size and density of local populations, economic activity, income, employment, housing, public services, social conditions, traffic
 - existing minority and low-income populations and subsistence communities (if present)
 - identify schools, daycare facilities, hospitals
- assess socioeconomic impacts including those associated with relocation or other community disruption, transportation, planned development, employment, and induced socioeconomic development

Visual Effects (including light emissions)

- photographs depicting existing conditions and simulations for various viewpoints
- Bureau of Land (BLM) Management Visual Contrast Rating (VCR) system to analyze potential visual impacts

Water Resources

■ Floodplains:

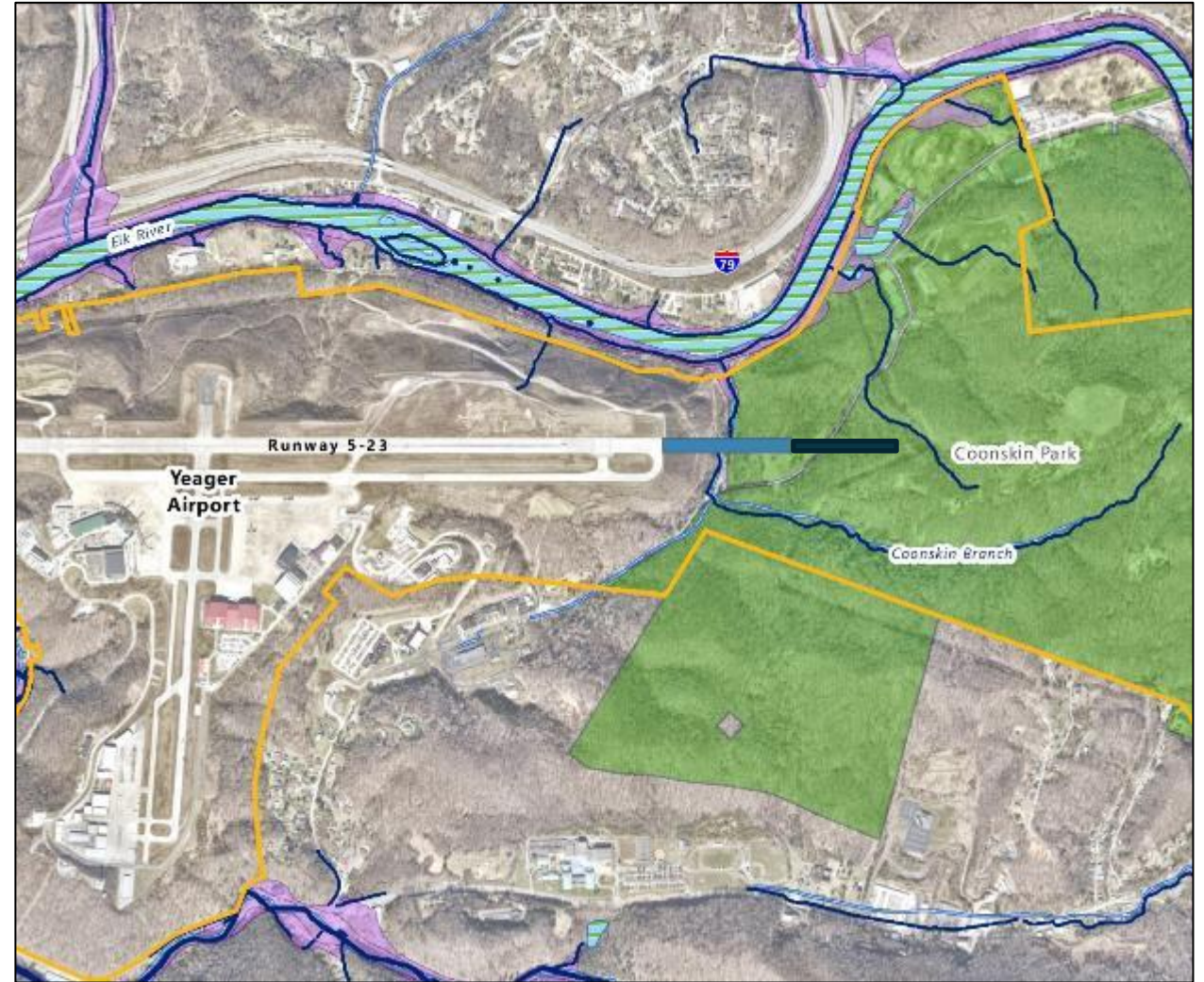
- Large quantity of fill required
- Potential loss of floodplain storage in Coonskin Branch

■ Wetlands:

- No wetlands identified in the National Wetlands Inventory database
- Field surveys have identified wetland areas within Coonskin Park

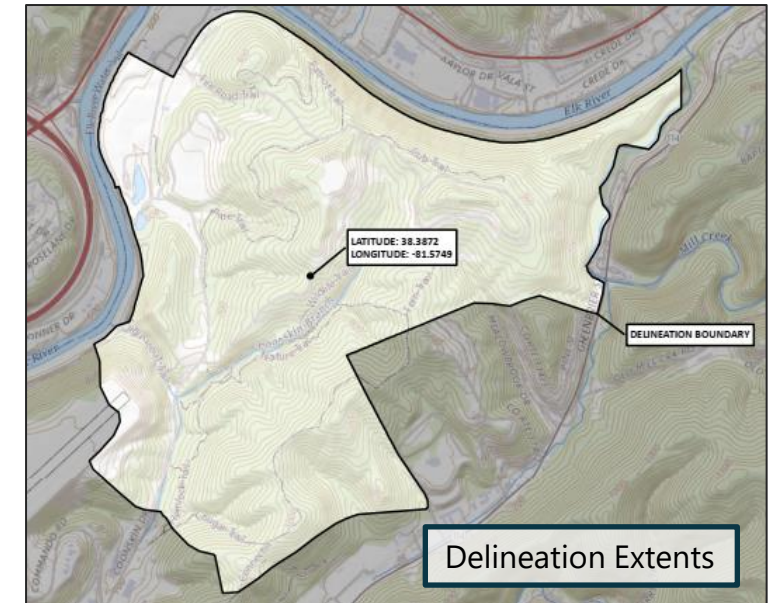
■ Surface Waters:

- Elk River and a portion of the Coonskin Branch
- Project anticipated to impact approximately 2,500 linear feet of Coonskin Branch



Water Resources – Surface Waters & Wetlands

- Delineation complete December 2021
 - 2.40 acres of open water
 - 69,000 feet of stream
 - 1.18 acres of wetlands
 - 3,000 feet of non-jurisdictional segments
- Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (JD) submitted to USACE March 22, 2022
- USACE provided AJD/PJD in October 2022



EIS Schedule and Permitting Timetable



Permitting Timetable

Milestone	Target Date
FAA Issues Notice of Intent	September 30, 2022
Scoping Meetings	November 2-7, 2022
Concurrence Point 2 – Alternatives to be Carried Forward for Analysis	January 27, 2023
Initiate Initial Consultation with Applicable Resource Agencies with Jurisdiction over Identified Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Resources	February 13, 2022
FAA's Wetland Impact Assessment	May 19, 2023
Consultation with Applicable Resource Agencies on the Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Evaluation	May 29, 2023
Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of Clean Water Act - Pre-construction Notification/Joint Application for Department of the Army Permit received by the USACE (if needed); 404(b)(1) Analysis provided to USACE (if needed); Section 401 of Clean Water Act – Certification Application to the WV Department of Environmental Protection (if needed)	June 23, 2023
USFWS Receives the Complete Biological Assessment (if needed) to Initiate ESA Consultation	July 21, 2023
Section 6(f) Replacement Property Plan	September 1, 2023
Concurrence Point 3 – Preferred Alternative	November 10, 2023



Permitting Timetable Continued

Milestone	Target Date
Conclusion of ESA Consultation	November 20, 2023
Publication of Public Notice for USACE Permit (if needed)	February 23, 2024
FAA Publishes Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS	February 23, 2024
Executed Memorandum of Agreement or Programmatic Agreement, if adverse effects to historic properties would occur	June 28, 2024
Concurrence Point 4 – Mitigation	June 28, 2024
Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Determination	August 16, 2024
FAA Publishes Notice of Availability of the Final EIS and Issuance of Record of Decision(s) (Joint EIS/ROD)	August 16, 2024
FAA Issues Record of Decision (if not Joint EIS/ROD)	September 16, 2024
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Issues Section 401 Water Quality Certification (if needed)	TBD
Department of Army Permit Decision (if needed)	TBD
FEMA Publishes Flood Insurance Rate Maps Updates	TBD



Permitting Timetable Concurrence

- Concurrence and/or comments on the Permitting Timetable

Agency	Concurrence	Comments?	Date
Cooperating Agencies			
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Concurs		10/20/2022
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Concurs		10/21/2022
WV Department of Environmental Protection	Concurs		10/24/2022
WV Development Office	--	--	--
Kanawha County Parks and Recreation Commission ¹	--		--
Participating Agencies			
WV Air National Guard		X	10/24/2022
WV State Historic Preservation Office			10/25/2022
Kanawha County Department of Planning			11/1/2022

NOTES:

-- Not Available

¹ The agency provided, via email, that they had no comments and would leave concurrence to other agencies.



Schedule Milestones

MILESTONE	ACTUAL OR ANTICIPATED DATE
FAA Initiated Agency Coordination	November 2021
Cooperating and Participating Agency Meetings	Ongoing/Monthly
Pre-Scoping Stakeholder Meetings	August 2022
Concurrence Point 1 – Purpose and Need Statement	August/September 2022
FAA Issues Notice of Intent (effective)	September 30, 2022
Scoping Comment Period including Public Meetings	Ends November 17, 2022
Concurrence Point 2 – Alternatives to be Carried Forward for Analysis	1st Quarter 2023
Concurrence Point 3 – Preferred Alternative	4th Quarter 2023
FAA Publishes Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS	1st/2nd Quarter 2024
Public Comment Period for the Draft EIS (minimum of 45 days)	1st/2nd Quarter 2024
FAA Issues Record of Decision	3rd Quarter 2024

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Resource-specific meetings will be conducted throughout the EIS process as needed/applicable, which may require additional stakeholder or community involvement



Thank You!

