

## South Suburban Airport Annual Progress Report

As Required by the Public-Private Agreements for  
the South Suburban Airport Act (620 ILCS 75/)

Section 2-75 of the **Public-Private Agreements for the South Suburban Airport Act (620 ILCS 75/)** requires the Department to "prepare an annual written progress report on the South Suburban Airport project. The report shall include the status of any public-private agreements or other contracting and any ongoing or completed studies."

### **Status of Public-Private Agreements**

To date, the Department has not formally entered into any Public-Private Partnership Agreements authorized by the Act related to the development of the South Suburban Airport (SSA).

- In accordance with Public Act 103-317, which amended Section 2-25 of the Act, IDOT has taken steps to "commence the prequalification process."
  - Initial Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued to prospective entities or groups interested in submitting Statements of Qualifications to design, build, construct, finance, operate and/or maintain SSA. (Aug. 2024).
  - On-on-One meetings held to obtain feedback from potential Respondents (Jan. 2025).
  - RFQ revised based on respondent input and departmental direction.
  - Addendum issued to the ongoing RFQ (May 2026).

### **Other Contracting**

The following contracts are separate from, and do not rely on, the authority granted under 620 ILCS 75:

- SSA Property Management contract remains ongoing, including the operation of Bult Field (C56), a corporate/general aviation airport located within the overall SSA footprint.
- Engineering services contract for technical/engineering work associated with safety enhancements and airfield improvements specific to Bult Field remains active.

### **Ongoing/Completed Studies & Efforts**

The SSA Project was placed "under review" by the previous administration; major land acquisition, planning, and environmental efforts were largely suspended at that time and have not been reactivated. Property management of the 4,550+ acres of acquired land remains ongoing by the Department's Division of Aeronautics, including the operation of Bult Field (C56), a corporate/general aviation airport located within the footprint of the overall proposed SSA development. Additional information can be found on the project's website at [www.SouthSuburbanAirport.com](http://www.SouthSuburbanAirport.com) and at [www.BultField.com](http://www.BultField.com).

As with most major projects, the SSA Project is comprised of multiple interdependent facets. The following high-level progress updates are for "ongoing/completed studies" associated with the overall SSA Project. These project components are separate from, and do not rely on, the authority granted under 620 ILCS 75:

- **Land Acquisition**: No new land acquisition in FY2026. Land Acquisition Summary & Land Acquisition Status Map included as [Attachment A](#).
- **Airport Master Plan**: No progress in FY2026. Master Plan status provided in [Attachment B](#).
- **Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**: No Progress in FY2026. Status of environmental efforts included as [Attachment C](#).
- **Project Delivery**: See above; preferred delivery method TBD.
- **Project Outreach**: No major activities in FY2026.
- **Property Management**: Management of the 4,550+ acres of land acquired in support of the project is ongoing, including operation of Bult Field (C56), a corporate/general aviation airport located within SSA's inaugural boundary. Project-wide lease revenues in FY2025 totaled \$1.6 Million. Lease status provided in [Attachment D](#).

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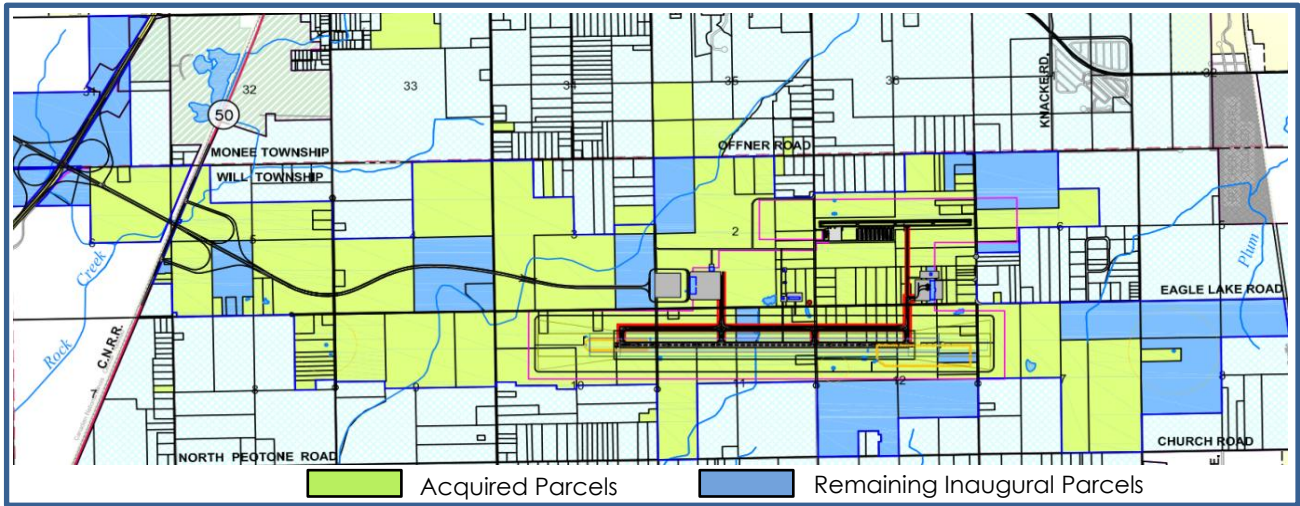
Based on information available at time of production.

# Attachment A

## *Acquisition Summary*

## *Status*

|  |                    |                         |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Inaugural Airport                          | 117 Parcels        | 4,250.68 Acres ±        |
| Ultimate (Hardship / Protective Purchases) | 35 Parcels         | 304.10 Acres ±          |
| <b>TOTAL ACQUIRED</b>                      | <b>152 Parcels</b> | <b>4,554.78 Acres ±</b> |



## Attachment B

| <b>Master Plan Components</b>  | <b>Status</b>                                 |
|--|---|
| <b>Existing Conditions Report</b><br><i>Describes the current environmental &amp; social setting in and around the airport site.</i>   | <b>FAA ACCEPTED</b><br><i>December 2011</i>   |
| <b>Aviation Forecasts</b><br><i>Predicts the number of aircraft and type (passenger, cargo, general aviation) that will use the airport over a 20 year timeframe.</i>  | <b>FAA APPROVED</b><br><i>March 2011</i>      |
| <b>Facility Requirements Report</b><br><i>Defines the size and number of airfield facilities (runways, taxiways, aprons, hangars, terminals, etc.) needed to handle the aeronautical passenger, cargo and general aviation demand contained in the approved Aviation Forecast Report.</i>  | <b>FAA ACCEPTED</b><br><i>November 2011</i>   |
| <b>Alternatives Development &amp; Evaluation Report</b><br><i>Reviews different airfield airside (runways, taxiways, aprons) and landside components (terminals, hangars, parking, access roadways) and determines the best environmental, operational, and cost effective configuration for development.</i>                                      | <b>FAA ACCEPTED</b><br><i>June 2012</i>       |
| <b>Airport Access Plan</b><br><i>Outlines airport access considerations, including projected traffic levels and potential improvements to the surrounding road network.</i>  | <b>Submitted to FAA for Review/Acceptance</b> |
| <b>Airport Layout Plan &amp; Airport Plans Report</b><br><i>Comprehensive set of detailed technical drawings that graphically depict the airfield components. A companion document, the Airport Plans Report, outlines the Federal criteria used in the preparation of the ALP and includes a narrative description of each of the ALP sheets.</i> | <b>Submitted to FAA for Review/Acceptance</b> |
| <b>Environmental Considerations Report</b><br><i>Outlines the environmental features and resources that may be potentially impacted by the construction and operation of SSA. Also identifies potential permits and other approvals that may be required to allow for early coordination with resource agencies.</i>                               | <b>FAA ACCEPTED</b><br><i>November 2013</i>   |
| <b>Facilities Implementation Plan</b><br><i>Defines the detailed steps (phasing) needed to construct &amp; operate the airport. Estimates cost and schedule to develop the Inaugural Airport Program.</i>  | <b>Submitted to FAA for Review/Acceptance</b> |
| <b>Financial Feasibility Report</b><br><i>Identifies the financial options available to construct &amp; operate the airport.</i>   | <b>Submitted to FAA for Review/Acceptance</b> |

# Attachment C

## **Environmental Reports & Activities**

*(Environmental reports below support IDOT's Airport Master Plan and FAA's EIS, but do not represent FAA's complete EIS effort.)*

## **Status**

### **Airspace Modeling**

*The FAA initiated an airspace study to analyze SSA's role in the region's complex airspace structure - which includes some of the business airports and airspace in the world. The study will help the FAA determine how to best integrate aircraft flying to and from SSA into the National Airspace System.*

**FAA Modeling Effort Completed;**  
Positive Results: SSA Operations Can  
Successfully Integrate Into Regional  
Airspace Structure  
January 2015

### **Access Justification Report (AJR)**

*AJR was prepared for IDOT and Federal Highway Administration approval for an SSA interchange from I-57 and access from IL-50.*

**FHWA: Concept Approval**

### **Archaeological**

*Detailed archaeological surveys conducted by the University of Illinois' Illinois State Archaeological Survey (ISAS) in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.*

**No Significant Findings**

### **Wildlife Hazard Assessment & Mitigation Plan**

*A 12-month field survey & assessment of wildlife hazards that may exist on or around the airfield. The mitigation plan offers potential wildlife management solutions.*

**Completed**

### **Wetlands Report**

*Inaugural site (5,000+ acres) surveyed and documented to create an inventory of the existing wetlands.*

**Accepted by FAA; IDNR Concurrence  
USACE APPROVED  
Jurisdictional Determination  
July 2013**

### **Floodplain Modeling**

*Watersheds mapped through the use of aerial LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging), which utilizes airborne lasers to create a 3-D model of the surface.*

**FAA ACCEPTED  
July 2013**

## Attachment D

| <i>Property Management - Leases</i> | <i>Status (May 2026)</i>                                   |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Agricultural                        | 85 Parcels; 20 Leases<br>3,717.8 Acres±; 2,791.8 Tillable± |
| Residential                         | 21   |
| C56 Hangar                          | 115  |
| Commercial                          | 3  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                        | <b>159 Leases</b>  |