



## Airport Commission Agenda Report

From: Mark Scandalis, Airport Manager

Subject: Airport Security Ad Hoc Recommendations

Date: April 24, 2025

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### Facts

1. On June 6, 2023, Aviation Management Consulting Group (AMCG) conducted an Airport Assessment of the Paso Robles Airport and presented their findings to the Airport Commission and an Ad Hoc of the Airport Commission was formed to prioritize the Assessment recommendations.
2. At the City Council meeting on January 16, 2024, the Airport Assessment Ad Hoc recommendations were approved by City Council.
3. Addressing airfield security improvements was a high priority recommendation of the Assessment.
4. Over the course of two days in March 2024, a security consulting firm, Lowery and Associates, performed a physical security assessment at the Paso Robles Airport.
5. On October 24, 2024, the results of the physical security assessment were presented to the Airport Commission and an Ad Hoc of the Airport Commission was formed to prioritize the security recommendations.
6. The Airport Commission Ad Hoc met three times to discuss the Lowery and Associates security study recommendations and develop a security plan.

### Options

1. Accept the security recommendations as developed by the Airport Commission Security Ad Hoc Committee and forward those recommendations to City Council for adoption; or
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

### Analysis and Conclusions

Airport security plays a crucial role in maintaining the safety and efficiency of national air travel. Each Airport in the National Plan of Integrated Airport System (NIPAS) is expected to play their part in providing a safe and efficient Airport system within the United States of America. The last major security upgrade at the Paso Robles Municipal Airport (PRB) was in the early 2000's with the construction of the new Airport Terminal. While commercial service Airports are subject to stricter regulation than general aviation (GA) airports like Paso Robles, GA airports are still expected to continually work towards a safer more secure NIPIAS system.

As the aviation industry changes, so does the necessity to keep the Airport up to date with the newest FAA regulations, guidance, and best practices. To further this goal of a safer and more secure Airport the City hired a physical security firm, Lowery and Associates, to evaluate PRB's physical security measures. Lowery and Associates conducted an onsite assessment of Airport security, meeting with staff, tenant groups, and Airport stakeholders. The firm presented their findings to the Airport

Commission on October 24, 2024, and an Ad Hoc of the Airport Commission was formed to prioritize the findings.

Attachment 1 details of the Airport Commission Ad Hoc security plan recommendations. Phased recommendations include:

1. Phase I (completed)
  - a. Airport staff work to secure all existing gate access.
  - b. Standardize all lock sets at all gates.
  - c. Plan for a future project to fence the entirety of the Airport to ensure readiness if grant monies become available.
2. Phase II (projected implementation in FY 2025-26)
  - a. Implement various physical security upgrades including new fence sections and electronic gate access to the west side, south side, and east side of the Airport.
  - b. Install Knox boxes at all electronic gate access locations to aid emergency services with access to the restricted Airport operations areas in case of emergency.
  - c. Due to safety of flight and aircraft operations, recommend the City provide notice to the North County Cloud Clippers (NCCC) remote controlled airplane club that the City can no longer host the club on Airport property beyond the current letter of authorization which expires 10/23/2025 (Attachment 2) with City staff working collaboratively with the Club over the coming months to identify an alternative location outside the airspace.
  - d. Work with Cal Poly 5G lab and the City IT department to evaluate internet connectivity across the entire Airport and cyber security compliance with current FAA Airport and future Spaceport regulations.
  - e. Work with Airport tenants to secure existing lease site boundaries.
3. Phase III (planned for budget years FY 2026-27 and 2027-28)
  - a. Budget for internet connectivity upgrades for the Airport to improve security. e.g., virtual fence and camera options.
  - b. Budget for physical security upgrades to replace existing barbwire fencing on west side, and south sides of the Airport.
4. Phase IV (date of implementation to be determined)
  - a. Plan for full key card access to the restricted Airport Operating Area.
  - b. Establish and update existing policies and procedures for security and safety.
  - c. Hire an Airport Operations Manager to manage the security system.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The estimated cost of the security plan recommendations are:

- Phase I: Completed using previously allocated FY 2024-25 general Airport maintenance and operating budget.
- Phase II: \$170,000
- Phase III-IV: Cost to be determined at time of implementation and returned to City Council for consideration through the normal budget making process.

Phase II is recommended to take place as soon as possible by allocating funds from the Airport Reserve Balance. Phase III-IV are recommended to be funded through the normal budget making process as part of the Airports capital improvement program.

**Recommendation**

Accept the security recommendations of the Airport Commission Security Ad Hoc Committee and forward the recommendations to the City Council for approval

**Attachments**

1. Airport Commission Security Ad Hoc Security Plan Recommendations
2. North County Cloud Clippers Certificate of Waiver or Authorization