

Chapter 6

Public, Stakeholder and
Government Consultation

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6. Public, Stakeholder and Government Consultation

6.1 Introduction

Communications and consultation activities and events were critical components of the Parallel Runway Project (PRP) Comprehensive Study (CS). A variety of opportunities to participate in the CS were available to stakeholders, government and the public. The following sections describe the communications and consultation undertaken during the CS.

6.2 Communications and Notification

Public and regulatory communications and notification began when work on the CS started in January 2009. It included the following specific actions:

- A circular (i.e., a brief project description) was sent to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) to notify them of the project.
- A Project Registry Website (www.yyc.com/rdp) was established, modeled after the CEAA Public Registry, which provides notification of requests for public comment and other CS-related notices and information; it includes the following information to date:
 - The Draft Project Description (PD) and Scoping Document
 - Communications and consultation program description
 - Upcoming public meetings notices
 - Past CS and public meeting materials (e.g., letters, presentations and display boards)
 - An online comment card
 - A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs)
 - Baseline Reports
- Displayed information regarding the PRP at the Calgary Airport Authority's (the Authority) Annual General Meeting held on 15 April 2009 at SAIT Art Smith Aviation Campus, located in McCall South.
- The first newsletter, the *Household Circular*. Approximately 132,000 *Household Circulars* were delivered by Canada Post to homes and businesses located within the Airport Vicinity Protection Area (AVPA) 25 Noise Exposure Forecast (NEF) contour (see Section 4.4.5.1 of this report; Volume V, Item 7; and Volume V, Item 8) during the week of 20 April 2009. This comprised approximately 50 communities within Calgary, as well as potentially affected residences in Rocky View County and the City of Airdrie.
- An introductory letter was sent to stakeholders (e.g., YYC businesses, adjacent landowners, community associations, business associations) on 21 April 2009. The *Household Circular* was attached.
- A letter was sent to the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment on 27 April 2009.
- A letter was sent to municipal, provincial and federal politicians on 27 April 2009.
- A letter was sent to the mayors and reeves of Lethbridge, Red Deer, Crossfield, Chestermere, Strathmore, R.M. of Wood Buffalo, Drumheller, Banff, Canmore, M.D. of Foothills, Wheatland County, Cochrane, Medicine Hat, High River and Okotoks on 27 April 2009.
- A letter was sent to City of Calgary Mayor Dave Bronconnier and copied to City of Calgary aldermen and John Hubbell, General Manager, Transportation, City of Calgary on 7 May 2009.
- Six advertisements were placed in four newspapers during the last two weeks of April 2009 to provide notification of the first round of Public Consultation Meetings regarding the Draft PD and Scoping Document. Two advertisements were placed in The Calgary Herald and the Calgary Sun, and one advertisement was placed in The Airdrie View and the Rocky View Times.

- A letter was sent to administration heads at the City of Calgary, Rocky View County and the City of Airdrie on 26 May 2009, with a request that the letter be further distributed to the appropriate departmental managers.
- A letter was sent to federal and provincial regulators on 12 June 2009.
- A registered letter was sent to the Tsuu T'ina, Siksika, Stoney and Kainaiwa First Nations and the Métis Nation of Alberta on 15 June 2009.
- The Baseline Reports were posted to the Project Registry Website as they were completed. Notification of their availability was posted to the website. The Baseline Reports were also made available at public libraries.
- A letter was sent to everyone on the Project contact list including the public, stakeholders and government agencies regarding the availability of the Baseline Reports on the Project Registry Website.
- A letter was sent to everyone on the Project contact list including the public, stakeholders and government agencies regarding the availability of the draft CS on the Project Registry Website.
- Letters were sent in response to every comment card/e-mail received.

6.3 Consultation

6.3.1 Public Consultation Meetings (PD and Scoping Document)

Public Consultation Meetings regarding the Draft PD and Scoping Document were held on 29 April, 2 May and 4 May 2009 in Inglewood, Whitehorn and Harvest Hills, respectively. The locations were in three different areas of the city so as to provide easy access for the public. The locations were selected so that anyone living within five km of the airport would not have to drive more than 10 km to attend a meeting. Advertising was very extensive, with a mass *Householder Circular* mail out, newspaper advertisements and independent TV media coverage announcing the meetings. The summary of the number of participants and the number of comments cards received at these meetings is provided in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 Public Consultation Meeting Summary

Community	Number of Participants	Number of Comments Cards Received at Meeting
Inglewood	66	36
Whitehorn	134	51
Harvest Hills	113	31
Totals:	313	125

6.3.2 Public Meetings (Draft Comprehensive Study)

A round of Public Meetings regarding the Draft CS will be held during the week of 6 September 2010.

6.3.3 Airport Noise Consultative Committee

Meetings with the Authority's Airport Community Noise Consultative Committee (ACNCC) were held on 19 March, 28 May, 15 October 2009, and 1 April 2010. At the 28 May 2009 meeting, the committee agreed to accept a high degree of involvement during the CS to discuss noise issues related to the PRP, including the review of the Draft Noise Baseline report and the Draft CS. The noise issues raised during these meetings are summarized in the Issues List (Volume IV, Item 1) and are addressed and/or responded to in the CS.

6.3.4 YYC Stakeholder Engagement

In addition to all other communications and consultation activities, calls and/or visits with YYC stakeholders during each phase of the CS was conducted to inform them of, and involve them in, the CS. The following YYC stakeholders were engaged:

- Calgary Airport Business Association
- Canadian Business Aircraft Organization
- Terminal Operators Committee
- Retail businesses at YYC

6.3.5 Municipal Engagement

The Authority and the City of Calgary have a cooperative working relationship. For example, the Authority and the City have an agreement on land use, development guidelines and acreage assessment levies such that airport development is undertaken in accordance with this agreement. There were many interactions with the City by CS team members on such matters as traffic flows and plans, and city programs related to infrastructure. The City of Airdrie and Rocky View County were also consulted with respect to their interests in the PRP.

6.3.6 Federal and Provincial Engagement

The Authority worked with the Agency to engage other federal departments and the Government of Alberta in its self-directed CS process. Communication was received from the following federal departments: Environment Canada (EC), Transport Canada (TC), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Health Canada (HC).

Although the Province has informed the Authority that no provincial EA is required, the Authority, with the assistance of the Agency, continued to consult with Provincial agencies that expressed an interest in participating in the CS. Communication was received from the following provincial agencies: Alberta Environment, Alberta Culture and Community Spirit, Alberta Transportation, Alberta Health and Wellness, and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

6.3.7 Communities and Interest Group Outreach

All community associations and residents within the vicinity of the airport were directly contacted. The Authority also made presentations to community associations (i.e., Martindale) and interest groups (i.e., Calgary Pathways and Bikeways Advisory Council) as requested. The following hoteliers were engaged:

- Hilton Garden Inn
- Best Western Airport Hotel
- Acclaim Hotel
- Greenwood Inn and Suites
- Country Inn and Suites
- Sheraton Cavalier
- Radisson Hotel
- Sandman Hotel
- Port O'Call
- Hampton Inn and Suites

The following organizations were consulted:

- Nose Creek Watershed Partnership
- Tourism Calgary Board
- Calgary Economic Development

6.3.8 Consultation with Aboriginal Peoples

The Alberta government reports that there are no recorded Aboriginal land claims with respect to the airport. Nevertheless, the Authority consulted INAC on ways in which to engage First Nations in the CS process. INAC suggested that in a typical CS the Tsuu T'ina, Siksika, Stoney and Kainaiwa First Nations and the Métis Nation of Alberta would be contacted. Those First Nations were informed of the PRP by registered mail when the Draft PD and Scoping Document was available for review, and they will be notified when the Draft CS is available.

6.4 Project Registry Website

The Project Registry Website is accessible at <http://www.yyc.com/rdp>.

The objectives of the website are as follows:

- To provide a user-friendly, easy-to-understand information source for everyone in the community. Individuals will be able to download information.
- To give stakeholders the opportunity to ask questions and provide input at any time during this process, not just during public meetings.
- To utilize this forum as a means of collecting information for the CS team at key stages of the CS process.

Information has been updated regularly to reflect the progress of the CS. The following information is included:

- Project visual identity
- CS Project Registry
- The PD and Scoping Document
- Issues List
- Public consultation program description
- Participant Funding Program information and documents
- Upcoming events and displays
- Specific project information, and documents such as baseline reports
- CS findings and depositories
- Next steps
- FAQs
- Contact information

An online comment form was available on the website to give stakeholders the opportunity to communicate issues, concerns and questions related to the PRP to the CS team.

6.5 Participant Funding Program

The Authority established a Participant Funding Program for individuals and not-for-profit organizations interested in participating in the CS. Only parties who could demonstrate that they meet at least one of the following criteria were eligible:

- Had a direct, local interest in the project, such as living or owning property in the Project area.
- Had a community knowledge or Aboriginal knowledge relevant to the EA.
- Planned to provide expert information relevant to the anticipated environmental effects of the PRP.

Information about the Participant Funding Program could be found on the Project Registry Website.

A total amount up to but not exceeding \$100,000 was made available for participant funding. The maximum available to any applicant was \$15,000.

6.6 Issues Raised and the Authority's Response

All issues raised by the public, government agencies, stakeholders or any other source were recorded, considered and responded to. During the PD and Scoping Document Phase of the CS 428 items were received via comment cards (125) and e-mails to info@rwy-yyc.com or other Authority addresses. Comments were also received at the 19 March and 28 May 2009 ACNCC meetings. Although 428 items were mentioned, the number of issues was much less because there was substantial duplication. During the Baseline Phase at the 15 October 2009 and April 2010 ACNCC meetings, nine issues have been raised. Issues raised are documented in the Issues List (see Volume IV, Item 1).

Issue: The airport needs to monitor what people are thinking about the project, their concerns and complaints. Then the airport needs to fix problems that their customers and neighbours identify. This should continue until the airport reaches normal daily operations.

Response: Feedback from the public is an important part of the Environmental Assessment and all issues raised during the community consultation sessions will be addressed and responded to by The Calgary Airport Authority. Questions and concerns about the Parallel Runway project will continue to be addressed throughout the Runway build and when the new runway is in service.