
Morrison's Cove & Altoona - Blair County Airport Access Study



PREPARED FOR:
THE BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
ALTOONA - BLAIR COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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Background

The Altoona-Blair County Airport was built in 1938, with the first facilities consisting of two paved runways. Initially owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Aeronautics Commission, the Airport was sold to Blair County in 1947. The Blair County Airport Authority was established in 1952 and has overseen all subsequent improvements, including a new access road from PA Route 866 in 1959.

The Airport has undergone much construction and renovation over its history, and continues to modernize today. It is currently building a new terminal and is installing new taxi lanes. It has requested approval from the FAA to extend its two runways, and is investigating the possibility of constructing an air freight distribution park in order to improve its inter-modal capabilities.

However, the Airport's location, approximately eight miles from Interstate 99 (formerly U.S. Route 220), places it at a disadvantage in its attempts to significantly increase the volume of both passengers and freight. In addition, PA Route 36 presents obstacles to motorists due to heavy congestion from (1) motorists traveling to the Raystown Lake area, (2) the high number of trucks on the roads, or (3) motorists traveling into the Cove. With these delays evident for motorists today, many residents prefer to drive a greater distance to other airports due to their convenience and accessibility.