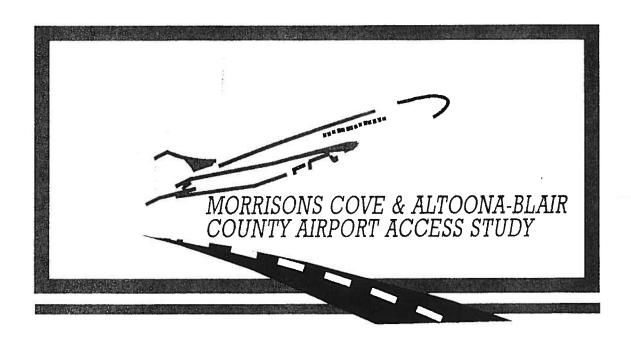
Morrisons Cove & Altoona - Blair County Airport Access Study



THE BLAIR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ALTOONA - BLAIR COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

PREPARED BY:



ORTH - RODGERS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
THE EADS GROUP
TRANSPORTATION RESOURCE GROUP, INC.

April 30, 1997

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
INTRODUCTION	1
The Steering Review Committee	1
Background	3
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY	4
Goals	4
Objectives	4
THE EXISTING SITUATION	5
The Study Area	5
Existing Roadway Network	5
Existing Traffic Volumes	9
Traffic Analysis Methodology	10
Existing Levels of Service	18
Existing Levels of Service - Roadway Segments	18
Travel Time Analysis	21
ORIGIN - DESTINATION SURVEY	26
Methodology and Survey Response	26
Survey Analysis and Findings	30
Trip Purpose	38
Vehicle Occupancy	40
Trip Frequency	40
Vehicle Type	40
Airport Travel	40
POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS	41
Land Use Constraints	41
Development Activity	44
Historic, Current and Projected Population	44
Historic, Current and Projected Employment	53
FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT	57
Background Growth	57
Future Development	58
Trip Generation Analysis	58
FUTURE CONDITIONS	62
Future Levels of Service Assuming No Improvements	62
Future Levels of Service Roadway Segments	66

TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

	Page Number
Future Travel Time Analysis	71
EXPLORATION OF IMPROVEMENT ALTERNATIVES	72
Upgrade the Existing Roadways	72
Travel Time Analysis with Improvements	74
NEW BYPASS ALTERNATIVES	76
Alternative 1 - Northern Bypass	76
Alternative 2 - Southern Bypass	79
Travel Time - Alternatives	82
Martinsburg Bypass	84
ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW	86
Description of Alternates	86
Existing Roadway Improvements	88
Combination Improvements	90
Relocation Improvements	90
Cost Estimating	93
RECOMMENDED TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	96
Early Action Improvements	96
Future Improvements Programs	99
CORRIDOR PRESERVATION/ACCESS MANAGEMENT	
RECOMMENDATIONS	101
Corridor Preservation Through Use of Official Map	101
Access Management Strategies	102

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.