



Chapter 8 - Public Participation Process

8.0 INTRODUCTION

The objective of the public participation process was to insure that stakeholder concerns were addressed and that the resulting Love Field Airport Master Plan had broad public support. At the very beginning of the study, the Project Team believed that it was critical for the various stakeholder groups to have ownership in the master planning process and have their concerns heard at every stage.

A key goal of the study was to provide a process that enabled stakeholders to reach a consensus plan for the future of Dallas Love Field Airport. Stakeholders include Love Field area residents, schools, airlines, other airport tenants, off-premise businesses, business organizations, community-based organizations, local elected officials and other involved agencies.

8.1 DEFINING CONSENSUS

While consensus does not mean a unanimous decision, every effort was made to satisfy the concerns of all stakeholder groups. A consensus approach does not give veto power to individuals, nor does it allow the concerns of one group to be swept aside by a simple majority of participants. The goal of this study was to develop a plan that has broad acceptance from the community, and that addresses and balances the legitimate concerns of the involved parties.

8.2 PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The public participation program included the following components:

1. Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC)
2. Public Information Meetings
3. Community Information Fairs
4. Newsletters
5. Website

Activities undertaken in each component are described in the remainder of this chapter.

8.2.1 Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC)

The Master Plan Advisory Committee, made up of leaders throughout the Love Field stakeholder community, was the primary vehicle for public participation in the planning process. The MPAC had 45 members, including 18 neighborhood representatives, 12 airport tenant representatives, eight representatives of non-airport related businesses or business organizations, one representative each from the city's Planning and Public Works departments, Dallas Independent School District (DISD), Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), FAA Air Traffic Control Tower, North Central Texas Council of Governments, and one Love Field area nonprofit community development corporation.



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Community neighborhood MPAC members represented the following:

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| Bachman/NW Hwy | Bluffview |
| Devonshire | Golf Grounds/Oak Lawn |
| Greenway Parks | Oak Lawn |
| Oak Lawn Heights | Perry Heights |
| Love Field North | Love Field Citizens Action Committee |
| Love Field West | North Park Love Field |
| University Park | Highland Park |
| Northwest Dallas | |

The initial committee was formulated in consultation with community leaders, airport staff, and City Council members representing the Love Field area. As additional stakeholder groups were identified, the committee was expanded to include representation.

During the ten month period from June 2000 to March 2001, the MPAC met 10 times. All of the meetings were open to the public at large and the media, although only MPAC members, or their alternates, were permitted to actively participate. At each meeting, the Project Team presented the details of the latest analyses and findings, and received feedback from committee members. All information was shared with the MPAC prior to presentation at a Public Information Meeting.

The MPAC met on February 28, 2001 in an extended workshop to reach consensus on the final recommendations for the Master Plan and other critical issues. The recommendations in this final report reflect the consensus of the MPAC.

8.2.2 Public Information Meetings

Seven Public Information Meetings were held during the course of the study. The focus of each meeting was to share findings and analyses, receive public feedback, and address stakeholder concerns. The meeting locations were rotated among City of Dallas Recreation Centers and Public Schools in the Love Field area to insure that the meetings were readily accessible to a broad spectrum of citizens.

A transcript of each public information meeting was made available for public review at the offices of the Department of Aviation. Simultaneous English/Spanish translation was available at each meeting (except for the 2/8/01 meeting). Meeting announcements were mailed to over 51,500 area residents. In addition, the meetings were advertised in the *Dallas Morning News*, and (when timing permitted) in *The Weekly* and *El Sol de Texas*. Public service announcements were sent to local radio stations.



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The following table lists the Public Meeting dates, location, and number of attendees:

DATE	LOCATION	# OF ATTENDEES
June 27, 2000	Bachman Recreation Center	136
October 5, 2000	Thomas J. Rusk Middle School	215
November 8, 2000	Foster Elementary School	46
November 9, 2000	Thomas J. Rusk Middle School	78
February 8, 2001	Grauwylor Recreation Center	43
February 22, 2001	Bachman Recreation Center	91
March 29, 2001	Bachman Recreation Center	

Each meeting consisted of a presentation of findings and analysis, followed by a question and answer session. A written agenda and handouts were provided at each meeting.

8.2.3 Community Information Fairs

After the first introductory public meeting, a Community Information Fair was held immediately preceding each Public Information Meeting, at the same location. These Information Fairs featured graphic displays of various study findings, including general airport layout, alternative terminal and gate configurations, noise contours, airfield capacity analysis, roadway layout, and other related exhibits.

The Community Information Fairs provided citizens with the opportunity to view study exhibits and discuss individual concerns one-on-one with Project Team members, including Consultants and City Aviation Department staff.

8.2.4 Newsletters

A newsletter, *Master Plan News*, was developed to provide interested persons with periodic updates regarding the study, along with critical background information. An announcement of the next Public Information Meeting was included in each newsletter. Four issues of *Master Plan News* were published-- June 2000, September 2000, October 2000, and February 2001. A fifth and final issue, outlining the study recommendations, is planned for April 2001.

The first newsletter was distributed to over 7,000 citizens in the Love Field area. Then, in response to broad interest expressed at the first Public Information Meeting, the distribution was expanded to include the geographic area bounded by Interstate 35E to Walnut Hill Lane to the North Dallas Tollway to Mockingbird to Central Expressway to Woodall Rodgers Freeway to Interstate 35E. As a result, subsequent newsletters were mailed to over 51,500 households, including single family and multi-family residences.

Also, the third and fourth issues included a Spanish translation of each article and an electronic version of each newsletter was available for viewing on the project website.



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8.2.5 Website

A special website, www.DallasLoveFieldMasterPlan.com, was developed as an important communication outlet. In addition to newsletters, the website featured upcoming meeting dates, answers to frequently asked questions, Master Plan Advisory Committee roster, electronic versions of Public Information Meeting presentations, and contact information (including email, telephone and fax). The website also provided a place for interested parties to email comments and questions to the Project Team. A link to the project website was available from the City of Dallas home page. In addition, the Love Field Citizens Action Committee provided a link to the project website.