FAA Airport Surveying – Geographic Information System (GIS) Program Airport Data and Information

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Federal Aviation Administration

## Topics

- Overview of Airport Surveying GIS Program
- Why collect rich, location based airport data?
- System Demonstration
- Questions & Answers



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# **Airports GIS Vision**

• Provide an interoperable web-based toolset to electronically collect, collaborate, manage, process, approve, maintain and share airport data addressing the needs of the FAA and its customers *collectively* rather than individually.





### **Airport Data and Information**

Each pilot in command shall, before beginning a flight, become familiar with all available information concerning that flight.





## **AIRPORTS GIS**

### WHAT IS GIS?

 In GIS, data is layered like a stack of transparencies



- Data that may come from many different sources is geographically projected, through the use of common datum's and coordinate systems, to align with each other
- Metadata: data about data

#### **AIRPORTS GIS?**

- A single, web-based database system for validated data in support of airport design & construction programs
- A GIS planning tool to help airport planners visualize the characteristics of airport facilities & features (runway length, width, surface type)
- A tool to help field personnel address & coordinate airport changes in a timely manner in an <u>integrated</u> environment



### **Survey Data Collection**

- FAA Advisory Circulars 150/5300 Series
  - 16, Geodetic Control
  - 17, Imagery
  - 18, Survey Data Collection
- Provide standardized data collection guidance and a common view of airport survey data
- Current efforts to make data model more AIXM compliant
- Current Airport GIS survey projects
  - 3000+ airport surveys



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## **PURPOSE OF AIRPORTS GIS**

- Conceived to address the airport data consistency and maintenance problems the FAA was experiencing agency-wide
- To create a better way of collecting, storing, managing, and sharing airports data
- To design a tool to assist the FAA's Office of Airports' personnel located across the United States in accomplishing their duties (both planning & engineering) in an integrated environment

•What if... the FAA could capture and validate against a defined standard, import data from the ALP, and make it available electronically for whoever needs it?





# **Airports GIS Objectives**

- Single portal for airport data into the FAA
  - Currently there are too many interfaces and ways for data to enter the system, causing confusion and extra workload
- Eliminate disparate airport data sets
  - Provide a means to acquire essential data as it is created in a digital form with associated metadata
- Provide standards based, verified and maintained airport data for use in ...
  - Airport Planning
  - Airport Design
  - Airport Operations



### **Airports GIS Objectives (continued)**

- Data standard harmonized with national (Federal Geographic Data Committee) and International standards (AIXM)
- Support NextGen initiatives of the FAA
  - High density Airports
    - More accurate standards based data for use in airport planning and trajectory based instrument procedure design
  - Flexible Airports and Terminals
    - Requires digital representations of the airports developed to a single standard
    - Create a Standardized Process for conducting airport and aeronautical surveys – Advisory Circulars
    - Current FAA guidance (FAA Specification 405) was not robust enough for the required data



### **Airports GIS - Example**

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# **Program Benefits**





## Why Implement Such A Process?

#### **New Navigation Technologies**

•Current initiatives within aviation industry (moving maps, electronic flight information, advanced avionics) require a data centric airport environment, as opposed to the traditional product based environment.





#### **New Process**

- To meet the challenges of the changing role of aeronautical data in the system, the FAA needed to rethink the way it collects, stores, maintains and shares data.
- We needed to change and focus on <u>managing</u> our airport and aeronautical data.



# **Airport Benefits**

 ✓ Provides a single point of entry for the submission and maintenance of <u>AIRPORT DATA</u> and to communicate the changes electronically to the FAA

✓ Provides non-GIS Equipped Airports with a GIS Foundation for:

- ✓Airport Layout Plans,
- ✓ Obstruction Charts,
- ✓ Construction plans, and other airport mapping products
- ✓ Planning
- ✓Zoning

✓ Improves Response to Airport Changes

 $\checkmark$  Provides On-line Access to Electronic Obstruction Charts and Airport

Layout Plan Data to FAA, Airports, and Consultants

 $\checkmark$  Provides the sponsor access to FAA data

 $\checkmark$  Speeds Production and Currency of FAA Charts and publications



## Why Implement Such A Process?

•To provide a common platform for the collection, maintenance and dissemination of airport and aeronautical information and sharing of the data for improved efficiency of airport operations for both the sponsor and the FAA.

•Current initiatives within aviation industry require a data centric airport environment, as opposed to the traditional product based environment.

•To meet the challenges of the changing role of aeronautical data in the system, the FAA needed to rethink the way it collects, stores, and maintains the data about airports.

•We need to focus on **managing** our airport and aeronautical data



## Why Change?

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UDDF (Universal Data Delivery Format) delivered data ... it was an outline, it did not tell the whole story!
Did not provide Metadata



## The answer ... a richer data set

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- Geospatial data identifies the <u>geographic</u> <u>location</u> and <u>characteristics of natural or</u> <u>man-made features</u>
- Moving to a geospatial environment allows us to not only know the geographic location but also, and sometimes more importantly the characteristics of a feature.
- In the example (left) of a runway ...
  - We not only have the coordinates (1)
  - We also have the characteristics (2)
- A much richer data set ...all together in a single place!



### **High-Level Operational Concept**





### Integrating Airports GIS into <u>Our</u> Business Processes Region/ADO





### **Airport GIS – High Level Workflow**





#### **Airport GIS – High Level Workflow**



**Airport GIS – Airport Data and Information** Februrary 24, 2020



### **Airport GIS – System Demonstration**

### **Airports GIS**

Web Application – <u>http://airports-gis.faa.gov</u>

Web Services –



### **NEXT STEPS**

### • What does the future hold?





### **Questions & Answers**



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### **Contact Information**

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