



Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 631-1000 Main Office

February 4, 2026

The Honorable Kendrick Butts, Chairman
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners
121 North Wilkinson Street, Suite 314
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Re: Transmittal of the FONSI for an Environmental Assessment (EA) at the Baldwin County Airport, Milledgeville, Georgia

Dear Chairman Butts,

The Georgia Department of Transportation (Department) Aviation Program has reviewed your submission of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposal that includes: expand the existing terminal area apron, construct new taxiway access to the new lower ramp area, construct apron, improve existing stormwater drainage including new detention ponds and acquire a drainage easement to the existing drainage system, construct new access roads and auto parking, install marking and lighting, relocate and install new utilities, raise the existing beacon and electrical vault to the appropriate grade, install erosion control, install fencing, and construct 4 T-hangar buildings, 6 box hangars, and 8 corporate hangars, at the Baldwin County Regional Airport, Milledgeville, Georgia. Enclosed is a copy of the approved Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this proposed project.

This Finding is issued pursuant to certain continuing requirements for mitigation and permits that are discussed and indicated in the EA, and in the FONSI. **These requirements are considered to be enforceable conditions of this approval and of any future funding or grant agreements.** The required mitigation measures are:

1. The Sponsor shall obtain all permits required by Federal, state, and local laws and regulations for this project prior to start of any construction for which the permit is applicable.
2. A bald eagle nest survey will be conducted in accordance with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Eagle Nest Survey Protocol within seven (7) days prior to any tree-clearing activities. The findings of the survey will be submitted to USFWS and Georgia Department of Natural Resources for concurrence prior to start of any tree-clearing or construction activity. Measures shall be taken to ensure that no trees are removed for this project during the months of September 1- July 31, the breeding season for the bald eagle, unless a nest survey has been completed and approved.
3. The tricolored bat is listed as "proposed endangered". There is potential habitat of the tricolored bat within the project area. If the species is listed as "endangered" prior to complete implementation of the Sponsor-Preferred Alternative, the Sponsor will follow the Federally established conservation guidelines for evaluation, mitigation, and protection of

the tricolored bat. If determined to be endangered prior to start of the project, USFWS shall be contacted for any guidance on the required survey and mitigation.

4. In the event that an incident occurs that causes harm or injury to any migratory bird species, the contractor shall be required to report the incident immediately to the USFWS-Ecological Services Field office and to the GDNR-WRD Nongame Conservation Division.
5. An erosion and sedimentation control plan that includes the use of construction controls to prevent degradation of water quality and potential associated impacts on aquatic ecology shall be approved by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division prior to start of the project and shall be implemented during the project. Any bare soil within the project area shall be immediately planted and established with native grasses. The contractor shall implement BMPs to protect and minimize construction impacts on water quality.
6. If required, a USACE 404 permit shall be obtained prior to start of work in any Waters of the U.S. All measures that may be required by the permit become enforceable mitigation measures of this FONSI. Any mitigation credits required as a condition of USACE permits shall be purchased prior to the start of any construction for which a permit is required. A Section 401, Water Quality Certification shall be acquired prior to start of construction.
7. The recently completed drainage study shall be used during design of the Sponsor-Preferred Alternative to ensure adequate drainage conveyance to the existing county drainage system with no impacts to the surrounding community.
8. The project shall comply with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water permit(s), as applicable. The construction contracts shall include compliance with Georgia Environmental Protection Division General NPDES Permit process.
9. Construction activity shall conform to current requirements as described in FAA Advisory Circular 150/5370-10, Standards for Specifying Construction of Airports, and FAA Advisory Circular 150/5200-33 Hazardous Wildlife Attractants on or Near Airports.
10. Measures shall be taken during clearing and trimming to prevent or minimize the spread of invasive species. Care shall be taken to ensure that invasive species or non-native species are not introduced or spread into the area by clearing and replanting activities.
11. Should any cultural resources or archaeological artifacts be discovered during construction, work shall immediately stop, and the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer notified.
12. Stormwater ponds should not be constructed on or near airports because of their potential to attract wildlife/birds that could become a hazard to air navigation. Great care should be taken in decisions for the necessity and location of stormwater detention ponds and eliminate them if possible. If it is determined that a pond is a requirement, it shall be

The Honorable Kendrick Butts, Chairman
Baldwin County BOC
FONSI-EA Baldwin County Airport
February 4, 2026
Page **3** of **3**

constructed so as to limit the attractiveness of the ponds to hazardous wildlife, and in accordance with FAA Advisory Circular 150/5200-33, Hazardous Wildlife Attractants on or Near Airports. It shall be the responsibility of the Sponsor to monitor any ponds to ensure that they do not become a hazardous wildlife attractant, and to take immediate action if hazardous wildlife is observed utilizing the pond. Any temporary ponds must be converted back to upland status prior to the completion of the project. Design should ensure that these areas will not convert back to aquatic features (pond or wetland) in the future.

Proposed changes in, or deletion of, a mitigation measure that is included as a condition of this approval must be reviewed and approved by the signing official of the Finding of No Significant Impact. Steps will be taken through grant agreements, licenses, contract specifications, operating specifications, directives, and other project review or implementation procedures to monitor and enforce implementation of the mitigation measures listed above.

In accordance with Federal Aviation Administration procedures, the FONSI must be made available to the public. The enclosed notice should be placed in the local newspaper(s) as soon as possible and run for a minimum of three days. Please, provide this office with a certified copy of the notice as it appears in the newspaper(s).

This letter should be attached to the FONSI for public inspection. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Brian Walden, Aviation Project Manager, at: BrWalden@dot.ga.gov, or Bonnie Baskin, Environmental Manager, at: bbaskin@dot.ga.gov.

Best Regards,

Colette W. Edmisten, A.A.E.
Aviation Program Manager
Division of Intermodal

CWE:bb

Enclosures: FONSI and Notice of Availability of Finding of No Significant Impact

cc: Carlos Tobar, County Manager
Leigh Ann Trainer, Asst Division Director, Intermodal