
T.F. Green Airport, Airport Improvement Projects EIS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yesterday (December 28, 2004) the Rhode Island Airport Corporation, in conjunction with the Federal Aviation Administration signed a contract with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., (VHB) a nationally recognized aviation environmental consulting and transportation firm, to restart the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for proposed airport improvements at T.F. Green Airport. RIAC recently revised its Master Plan for the airport and is evaluating the required improvements to accommodate the most recent forecasts through 2020. Consideration is being given to three lengthening alternatives for Runway 5-23, in addition to terminal and cargo facility improvements.

“I am confident that with VHB we will have the expertise and fresh approach we need to move the airport improvement projects forward,” said Laurie Cullen, Executive Vice President of RIAC.

VHB was selected for its extensive knowledge of the Rhode Island regulatory and transportation context; its reputation in the aviation field for successfully tackling challenging airport projects; and most importantly for its innovative strategy for public outreach and project facilitation. Project Director Jonathan Feinstein, a Rhode Island native, pioneered environmental streamlining in the state with now-RIDOT Director James Capaldi on the Woonsocket Industrial Highway by completing the EIS and permitting in under two years for the Federal; Highway Administration. Carol Lurie, Project Manager, has for over 15 years served as a key consultant on its annual environmental documentation, and she worked on the controversial new runway project at Boston’s Logan International Airport.

VHB is supported by an extensive team of hand-picked experts who are specialists in their fields. Key team members include Edwards and Kelsey for engineering, Barton & Gingold for public outreach, Harris Miller Miller and Hanson for noise evaluation, KMC Environmental, Inc. for air quality analysis, PAL, Inc. for cultural resources, O.R. Colan for relocation services, and RKG for economic evaluation.

The public scoping for the EIS will begin in early February when the Rhode Island Airport Corporation with VHB will solicit public comment on the proposed airport improvements at T.F. Green Airport.

“We are looking forward to a new productive public process to obtain technical input from all interested parties including residents, elected officials, and other environmental agencies,” said Ms. Cullen.