



CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

Cuyahoga County Airport (referred to as the Airport or CGF) is a public-use, general aviation reliever facility that serves the aviation needs of eastern Cuyahoga County and the Northeastern Ohio Region. Cuyahoga County owns the Airport; its operation and maintenance is the responsibility of the Department of Development under the auspices of the Board of County Commissioners.

The last Airport Master Plan for the Cuyahoga County Airport was completed in 1977 by the staffs of the Cuyahoga County Regional and Lake County Planning Commissions. The sponsor of the facility initiated this Master Plan Update (MPU) study in 2003 in order to determine the current and future potential of the Airport, and to identify specific opportunities for improving its airport facilities. The study, part of due diligence planning for the Airport, was funded jointly by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Cuyahoga County. The technical work was completed by C&S Engineers, Inc., Aerofinity, Inc., Charles M. Salter Associates, Inc., Columbus Engineering Consultants, Inc., RCJ Resources, LLC, and Robert Simons & Associates, Inc.

1.01 Planning Scope and Guidelines

The main objective of this study is the preparation of an Airport Master Plan Update to determine the extent, type, and schedule of development needed to accommodate existing needs and future aviation demand at the Airport. The recommended development shall be presented in the following three planning periods: short-term (2006-2010), intermediate-term (2011-2015), and long-term (2016-2025). The recommended development program will satisfy aviation demand and be compatible with the environment, community development, and other transportation modes. Above all else, the plan will be technically sound, practical, and economically feasible. The following objectives serve as a guide in the preparation of this study:

- Consider the impact of recent national and local aviation trends on the 1977 Airport Master Plan, current Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP) and other plans for airport development;
- Provide a rational, technically-sound basis for project development decision-making;
- Provide an understanding of the potential impact of alternative airport capital projects;
- Realize the existing capacity of available airport infrastructure and determine when future growth in activity and/or regional development may require the construction or expansion of those facilities;
- Understand the issues, opportunities and constraints of local airport development;



- Quantify estimated costs, potential funding sources and a schedule for implementation of proposed capital projects;
- Interact with, and retrieve input from, the public and other stakeholders on airport development issues and plans; and,
- Comply with all applicable federal, state and local regulations pertaining to airport development planning and programming.

Specific outcomes and products of the study shall include:

- A plan that will ensure the reliability and safety of airport operations;
- An effective graphic representation of the ultimate development of the Airport;
- A schedule of priorities and phasing for the various improvements proposed in the plan;
- Pertinent backup information and data which were essential to the development of the master plan;
- A description of the various concepts and alternatives which were considered in the establishment of the proposed plan;
- A concise and descriptive report so that the impact and logic of its recommendations can be clearly understood by local residents and by those authorities and public agencies charged with the approval, promotion, and funding of the improvements proposed in the Master Plan Update;
- Recommended development that is in concert with current FAA and state design standards; and,
- A plan that will ensure that the Airport thoroughly complements and supports development envisioned for Cuyahoga County, Lake County, and the Northeast Ohio Region.

Specialized aspects of the project include aerial photography, survey ground control, and base mapping associated with an obstruction study for the Airport. Forecasts of anticipated aviation activity to the year 2025 are developed. Noise exposure based on existing aviation activity and future conditions is analyzed. A survey of airport users provides background for future facility planning. Responses to a survey of local businesses are instrumental in the development of an Economic Impact Analysis that documents the direct and indirect financial effects of business activity at and near the Airport. A project website complements public participation aspects of the project.

1.02 The Planning Process

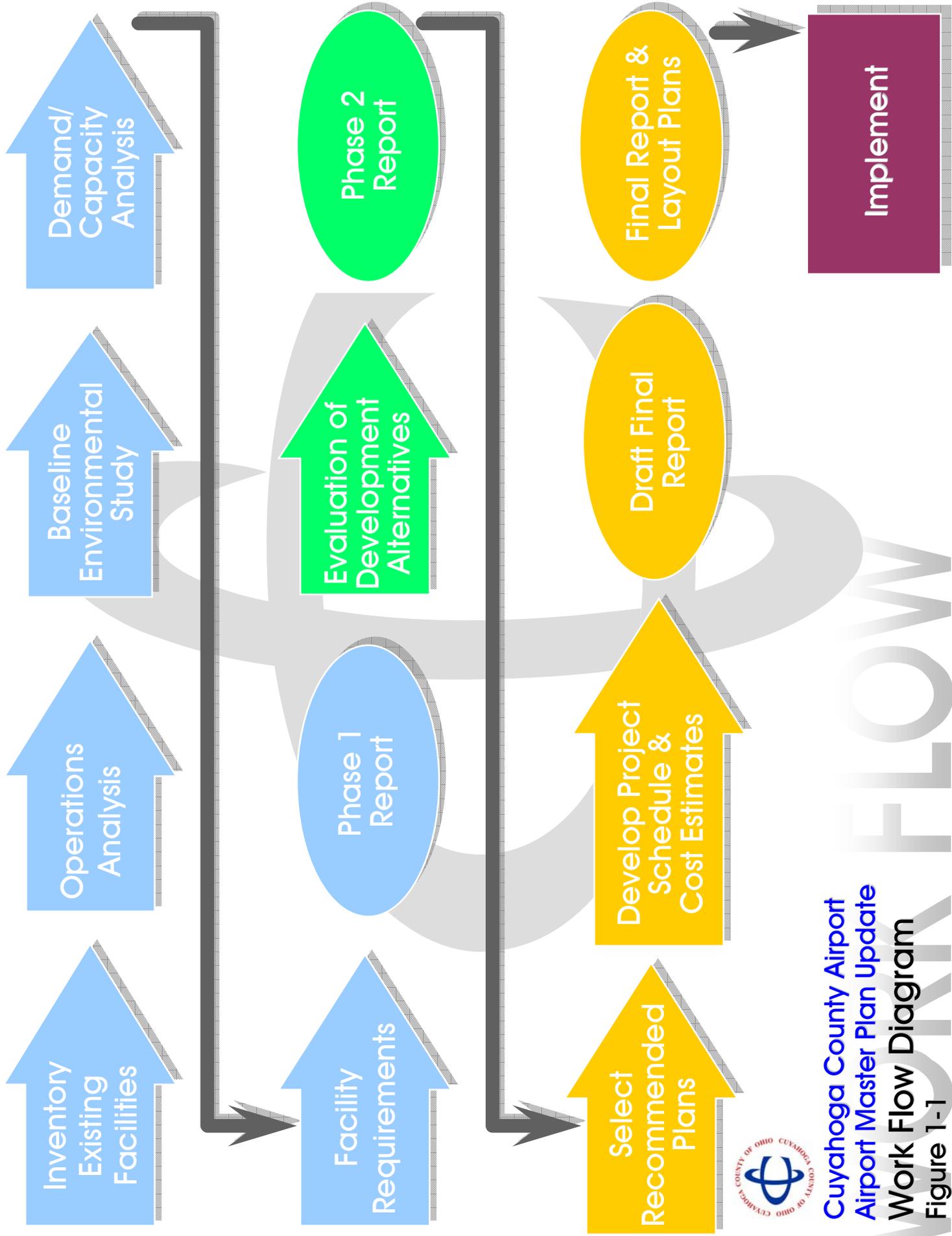
The planning process for the Master Plan Update is comprised of four basic steps (see **Figure 1-1**). The first step involves an examination of existing conditions, including data collection and inventory, operations analysis, and an environmental overview. Also included in this phase is a needs analysis which involves preparing aviation demand forecasts, translating these forecast values into a listing of required airport facilities, and analyzing the demand/capacity relationships at the Airport.



The second step, using these analyses as a basis for preparing alternative development concepts, concludes with the evaluation of these alternatives.

The third step involves the identification and detailing of recommended plans and presents a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Airport that is phased (with short-term, mid-term, and long-term projects) and based on economic and financial feasibility. The draft final report documents the three phases of the study.

The fourth and final step is the implementation of the plan. The Airport Master Plan Update is meant to be a guide for the future development of the Airport.



**Cuyahoga County Airport
 Airport Master Plan Update
 Work Flow Diagram
 Figure 1-1**