



## **The Ohio State University Airport Environmental Assessment Project Summary**

The proposed runway extension at The Ohio State University Airport (OSUA) is being recommended to provide a viable facility to serve the existing and future users of the airport. Since the airport supports a variety of aircraft types and functions, it is important to provide facilities to meet as many of their needs as reasonably possible.

Three alternatives were initially reviewed to upgrade OSUA as part of their Master Planning process. After considering the proposed alternatives and evaluating their benefits/impacts, a Preferred Alternative was selected. When compared to other alternatives, the Preferred Alternative best meets the purpose and need of the project while minimizing impacts. The Preferred Alternative includes improvements to the runway, taxiways, safety areas, lighting and navigational aids, and the closing of one runway.

As part of the Preferred Alternative, runway 9L/27R would be extended 1,800 feet to the west and 1,200 feet to the east, to a length of 6,000 feet of paved runway surface. This would maximize the length of runway 9/27 without relocating the surrounding roads and would provide additional runway surface for aircraft operations. The existing taxiway would be extended to the full length of the new runway and new taxiways will be constructed from the ends of runway 9L/27R to the ends of 9R/27L. In addition, the Runway Protection Zones and Runway Safety Areas would be upgraded to accommodate the longer runway. Runway 14/32 would be closed to improve overall safety and operational efficiency.

Because Federal funding is being considered for the improvements, studies must be undertaken to satisfy the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To accomplish this, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared consistent with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements. The EA will document the likely impacts of the project and is developed through a process that requires public participation.

Public involvement for the project has been ongoing. As a result of this process, OSUA has become aware that members of the public have serious concerns about the potential for noise impacts as a result of the project. To address these concerns, OSUA has agreed to undertake a detailed noise analysis as part of the EA process. This noise analysis is now underway, and its results will be documented in the EA. The results of the noise analysis will influence the final outcome of the project. If FAA approves the EA and the University Board of Trustees concurs, then OSUA will move forward with design and construction of the proposed improvements.