



METROPOLITAN
KNOXVILLE
AIRPORT
AUTHORITY

September 16, 2020

Ms. Michelle Frazier, Director
TDOT- Aeronautics Division
7335 Centennial Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37209

Dear Ms. Frazier:

As a follow-up to recent conversations with your office, this letter will provide additional notification by the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority (MCAA) of the transfer of the role of the responsible party from MCAA to the City of Oak Ridge for the future development, ownership, and operation of the proposed general aviation airport in the City of Oak Ridge (the City).

In 2009, MCAA was asked by community organizations from the Oak Ridge area to study the feasibility and assist in acquiring funding for a proposed general aviation airport within the city limits of the City of Oak Ridge. Between 2010 and 2019, MCAA completed a sequence of planning studies to evaluate the feasibility of this project. MCAA also made the application and received award of various state and federal grants associated with the Oak Ridge airport project. This planning phase of the airport project resulted in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) providing conditional approval for a proposed Airport Layout Plan (ALP) for the proposed Oak Ridge airport on March 4, 2019.

With the completion of the planning phase, MCAA and the City have worked together to determine the most advantageous path for the continued development and operation of this airport. MCAA and the City determined that because the proposed airport site is within the boundary of the City of Oak Ridge, the City is in the best position to direct the long-term development, ownership, and operations of the proposed airport.

Thus, on July 21, 2020, the Oak Ridge City Council unanimously approved a resolution supporting the development of a general aviation airport at the East Tennessee Technology Park and expressed the City's intent to become the responsible sponsoring party for the airport project. A copy of the City's associated resolution #7-75-2020 accompanies this letter.

Likewise, on August 19, 2020, the Board of Commissioners of the MCAA passed Resolution No. 20-02 (copy attached), which states MCAA's support of the City becoming the responsible sponsoring party for all aspects of the project, including the design, construction, ownership, and operation of the proposed airport. This resolution also states MCAA's desire for the state and federal grants currently awarded to MCAA from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Tennessee Department of Transportation specifically intended for the development of the Oak Ridge airport be transferred to the City. The resolution further states MCAA's desire for the Federal Aviation Administration to recognize the City as the sponsor of the proposed Oak Ridge airport.

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To assist the City with the undertaking of this project, the MKAA's staff is available to provide advisory services to the City and your office to support the transition of this project. Thank you for the assistance your office and the TDOT- Aeronautics Division has provided to MKAA during the planning phase of this important project. If you need any additional information after reviewing the attached MKAA Resolution No. 20-02, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick W. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Patrick W. Wilson, A.A.E.
President

thb

c: Attachments