

PICKERING AIRPORT PROJECT

Greater Toronto Airports Authority
Fact Sheet

Background

- The Pickering Lands consist of 7,530 hectares (18,600 acres) of land within the City of Pickering.
- In 1972, the Government of Canada acquired these lands for the purpose of an international airport site for the Greater Toronto region.
- Planning was halted in September 1975 and the decision to develop Toronto Pearson into the region's international gateway shortly followed.
- Today, the Pickering Lands are leased for agricultural, commercial and residential purposes.

Draft Plan

- In keeping with its responsibility for serving the Greater Toronto Area's aviation needs, the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA) was asked in 2001, on behalf of Transport Canada, to undertake the planning work which is required before the federal government decides whether to proceed with a regional/reliever airport on the Pickering Lands.
- In November 2004, a Draft Plan for the Pickering Lands was released to the public. The Pickering Airport Draft Plan Report outlines a staged plan for an airport that includes:
 - o an analysis of aviation demand (passenger, general aviation and cargo)
 - o a preferred runway and taxiway layout
 - o a layout for roads, terminal buildings and other support facilities
 - o an assessment of transportation and utility requirements
 - o an overview of the GTAA's environmental approach and the environmental assessment process
 - o an approach to ensure there would be an appropriate buffer zone around the airport
- The development of the Draft Plan was based on numerous technical studies and reports, undertaken over a three year period.
- The plan also incorporated activity projections and future trends in aviation and technology.
- Following its release, the GTAA held a series of seven public open houses in the communities surrounding the airport lands.
- GTAA staff were on hand to answer questions, provide technical information and take comments from local residents at the public open houses.

Needs Assessment Study

- Following a competitive process in May 2007, the GTAA was awarded a contract by Transport Canada to complete a Needs Assessment Study for a potential Pickering Airport.
- The GTAA is extending and updating previous work on the role and capacity of airports in Southern Ontario in meeting future needs of passengers, businesses and general aviation.
- This work has been ongoing since May 2007 and the findings will be reported to Transport Canada in 2008.

Transport Canada

- The decision whether to build a Pickering Airport rests not with the GTAA, but with the Government of Canada.
- Transport Canada has the responsibility for analyzing the need for an airport, performing due diligence in consulting and researching the Pickering airport project and ultimately deciding on whether or not an airport is needed in Pickering.
- Transport Canada will also make decisions regarding the type and size of airport that could be built on the site.

Final Decision

- Ultimately it will be the Government of Canada that must decide whether an airport is built on the Pickering Lands.
- Should the government decide to pursue an airport on the Pickering site, it would need first to conduct an environmental assessment, which would be conducted by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.
- The environmental assessment would provide a forum for the community to advance their concerns regarding the building of an airport, and the measures required to mitigate the environmental, social and economic impacts.



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For additional fact sheets about the GTAA and Toronto Pearson, visit www.GTAA.com.