

State and Local

Regents take construction bids on new terminal at Easterwood

By Jamie Russell
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M Board of Regents is accepting bids for the construction of a new terminal building, access road and parking lot at Easterwood Airport until Feb. 25.

The north passenger-terminal building phase of the Easterwood Airport Improvement Plan is one of the final airport construction projects, Moffatt Adams, chief architect for A&M facilities planning, said.

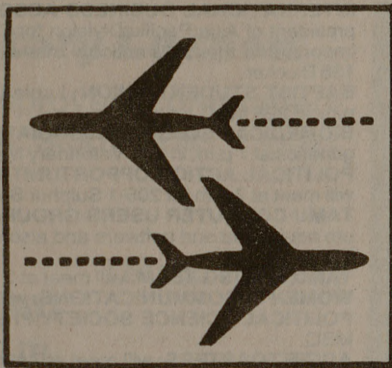
The Board of Regents will award the construction contract for the new terminal at the March 6 and 7 meetings, Adams said.

"Actual construction for the new terminal will begin in May and hopefully be completed in August of 1989," Adams said.

Gen. W.E. Peel, A&M's vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said the improvement and expansion of A&M's Easterwood Airport is an important step in the growth of Bryan-College Station and the surrounding area.

The construction of the terminal for the airport is the fourth of five projects to be done in the improvement program.

Peel said the first projects included the extension of Runway 16/34, which cost \$6.4 million; the north-terminal extension of utility lines, which cost \$1.8 million; and the north-terminal aircraft parking apron, which cost \$1 million.



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

The current terminal project will cost \$4.5 million and will include the 32,000-square-foot north passenger terminal building, an access road and an automobile parking lot, Peel said.

"The accommodations are the best they (commercial airlines) have anywhere," Peel said.

A&M compiled a list of the top 13 terminal buildings in the Southwest, Peel said. A&M architects visited the top six and talked to the airport managers about what they liked and disliked about their buildings, he said.

"It is a pretty doggone comprehensive list, a thorough study of what we wanted," Peel said. "You won't find a better terminal anywhere for this size airport."

The old 6,000-square-foot terminal building will be remodeled and transformed into a general aviation facility for private aviation, he said.

The airport improvement project's total cost is \$14 million.

"It is the most important project we, the University, have done in a long time, not only for A&M, but for the entire area," Peel said.

According to the Census Bureau, the Brazos community's population has doubled from 20 years ago. And A&M's student enrollment went from 12,800 students in 1967 to 39,000 students in 1987, according to A&M archives.

Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce President W.R. Vance said airport needs have increased along with this population increase.

"We're very interested in promoting, along with the University, the very best air transportation service that we can obtain for the community and the University," Vance said.

The chamber's position in regards to the airport is twofold, he said.

"First, we want to be of help to the University in any way we can," he said, "to assist them in their improvement of and operation of Easterwood Airport."

"Second, the chamber is very interested in the type of commercial air service available into and out of Easterwood Airport, particularly to Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth, because from an economic devel-

opment standpoint, quality air transportation is very important. This aspect is something (neither) the chamber nor the University have control over."

Peel said quality air transportation is directly related to the economics of the community. An air transportation service will not put in a large service without being assured of a large number of passengers, he said.

"It's a chicken-and-egg proposition," Peel said. "We can wait until passenger numbers dictate the improvement, or we can go ahead and create our capability. The Board of Regents chose the latter way to go."

The airport improvement plan began in April 1985 with the lengthening of the runway and will be completed with the remodeling of the old terminal in May 1990, Peel said.

When the final project is completed, the airport will be able to accommodate any aircraft in the commercial inventory, Peel said.

Funding for the project is provided by the Federal Aviation Administration, Bryan, College Station and Brazos County, Vance said.

"Bryan, College Station and Brazos County have each committed an annual amount of \$100,000 for Easterwood," Vance said.

The FAA first looks at the contract bids on each project and decides funds accordingly, Peel said.

"We don't know how much the FAA will fund us," he said.

Treasurer reports improved outlook for state economy

AUSTIN (AP) — State Treasurer Ann Richards, the frequent bearer of bad financial tidings for state government, reported good news Monday.

"We are issuing a report to the Legislature today giving them the good news that our cash flow report is looking better than it's looked in a very long time," Richards said.

"We think things look good for the foreseeable future," she said.

The upbeat outlook is a result of last year's tax increase, state borrowing and higher-than-projected tax collections in recent months.

The state government financial picture plummeted with the price of oil in recent years.

The cash flow situation hit bottom late last year at a deficit of approximately \$1.9 billion, Richards said.

Her report to lawmakers Monday included a chart showing projected increases in the state general revenue fund daily balance, reaching a zero deficit by the middle of 1989.

"The state should have a sizable cash balance when the biennium ends on Aug. 31, 1989," she said in the report.

When the balance is below zero, the state must either sell cash management notes or do "interfund borrowing" to meet its obligations.

A total of \$1.25 billion in cash management notes have been issued. Richards said an issuance of approximately \$700 million in cash management notes is anticipated for this year.

"As long as tax collections and expenditures occur at different times and you have an imbalance between cash coming in and the cash going out, you are always going to experience some period of deficit," she said at a Capitol news conference.

It's cheaper to sell cash management notes than to juggle money among different state funds, the treasurer said.

Texas will have "no difficulty in redeeming and paying off the cash flow notes that we issued last year," Richards added.

She said the "two real factors" responsible for the improving economic picture are the \$5.7 billion tax increase approved last year and the "small, but significant, gains in the Texas economy."

"We are seeing a slow return of the Texas economy," she said.

Last-minute state holidays will not affect A&M calendar

By Karen Kroesche
Senior Staff Writer

After some debate, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution Monday that protects Texas A&M's academic calendar from last-minute state holidays granted by the governor.

Dr. Peter Hugill, chairman of the senate's Academic Affairs Committee, said an unplanned holiday last

year on Good Friday, a holy day observed by Christian denominations, caused substantial problems for faculty.

The resolution proposes that "the academic calendar approved each semester by the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University be fixed except in cases of severe emergency as determined by the president."

The Senate also listened to a guest

presentation by Lloyd Colegrove, president of the Graduate Student Council. Colegrove challenged the faculty members to work to change the perception that problems do not exist on the A&M campus.

"We have allowed ourselves to ignore certain problems within this community that exist on other campuses and are dealt with more openly," he said.

Colegrove cited several examples of naive on this campus and said the Graduate Student Council became aware of this lack of awareness when it looked into the Student Counseling Service.

"These views came from students and from faculty," Colegrove said, "that students at Texas A&M do not suffer from problems like drug and alcohol abuse, that students at Texas

A&M do not suffer major emotional crises or contemplate suicide, women here do not fall victim to sexual harassment or assault. Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal."

In other action, the Faculty Senate:

- formally moved the date of the next Senate meeting to March 7.
- approved a resolution from the Academic Affairs Committee that

requires all colleges or departments to make it clear in their catalog descriptions that courses taken to satisfy the foreign language requirement of the core curriculum may not be used by students to satisfy the cultural heritage requirement.

- approved new courses, course changes and course withdrawals within the graduate curriculum.



Class of '88 Voting for Senior Class Gift

Class Gift Proposals

Please cast one vote for your choice of senior class gift.

- Audobon Collection - "Birds of America"** The collection will consist of 435 Audobon prints divided into four leather-bound volumes. These prints will be limited to 350 sets for worldwide distribution, therefore, making these prints a valuable rarity. The volumes will be displayed in a very visible location in Sterling C. Evans Library enclosed in glass. If this gift is purchased by our class, it will be the largest and most notable gift given to the library by a class. The class will be recognized as "Major Donor" of the library.
- Aerobics Track Warm-Up Area** The warm-up area will be located on the corner of Houston Street and Rudder parking lot across from G. Rollie White. This landscaped corner will enable students to exercise and stretch before jogging. A bulletin board will post sports and aerobic information including different routes and mileage. This area will enhance and beautify the track for students and visitors.
- Lettering for Kyle Field** Four feet maroon letters spelling "Welcome to Aggieland" and "Home of the 12th Man" will be placed on the 2nd and 3rd deck of the students side of Kyle Field. This will be an expression of the student body's spirit behind their team as defined by the 12th man tradition. It would also show A&M's friendliness and hospitality to any visiting teams. Being in Kyle Field, this will be an everlasting gift.
- Visitors Information Center** Located at the main entrance of campus this drive through area will enable visitors to park their car and view a graphic map of the entire campus. This map will be provided along with brochures and other helpful information that will assist visitors in inquiring about particular points of interest. Because of the growth of our campus this information center is much needed.

Please bring this ballot and your I.D. to the table located in the MSC flag room.

Monday-Friday, Feb. 8-12, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



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