

## Meeting Summary

Environmental Assessment

McGhee Tyson Airport Terminal Area Development Program

January 13, 2026

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** 29 signed-in; 45 by headcount

- Mark Heckroth, ENV SP, EA Project Manager, CHA
- Bill Barley, P.E., Aviation Program Director, CHA
- Ashley Koutropoulos, ENV SP, Environmental Planner, CHA
- Sydney Hamilton, ENV SP, Aviation Planning Specialist, CHA
- Vincent Rodriguez, Senior Project Manager, Gresham Smith
- Bryan White, P.E. CM, Director of Planning and Development, Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
- Becky Huckaby, APR, Fellow, PRSA, A.A.E., Vice President of Public Relations, Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
- Eric Williamson, Director of Design and Construction, Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority
- Lisa Plawchan, Public Information Officer, Versant Strategies

The Open House Public Meeting introduced the Environmental Assessment (EA) phase of the Terminal Area Development Program at McGhee Tyson Airport.

The meeting was a drop-in format, which opened promptly at 5:30 p.m. Attendees viewed a series of eleven (11) informational display boards that outlined the purpose and scope of the EA for the Terminal Area Development Program.

The display boards described the airport's total passenger growth and projected growth through 2030, the Proposed Action, technical studies to be conducted, and the EA schedule. Project staff answered questions and discussed the EA with attendees one-on-one.

Participants were encouraged to provide written comments at the public comment station. Comment forms were available at the meeting, along with information on how to submit comments by mail or digitally, either through an online survey or by email.

### General Feedback from Attendees

During the one-on-one conversations with the project team, attendees shared the following general comments:

- Positive reactions about Southwest Airlines offering service at McGhee Tyson Airport
- Support for additional concessions and holding areas within the terminal
- Concerns about potential impacts of future airport development on surrounding neighborhoods, including Benford
- Requests for terminal designs to reflect the surrounding community and avoid overly modern architectural styles.
- One attendee suggested relocating the airport to South Knoxville and using the existing facility solely for Allegiant Airlines. Attendee also expressed concerns about traffic along Alcoa Highway.

No written comment cards were submitted at the public meeting. In addition, no digital comments or emails were received during the public comment period.

### Media Attendance

Three media outlets attended the public meeting, two TV stations – WBIR and WVLT and a reporter from the *Knoxville News Sentinel*. The following are links to the media coverage received before, during, and after the public meeting.

#### Public Meeting Media Coverage

WBIR - Pre-event coverage - <https://www.wbir.com/video/news/local/knoxville/mcghee-tyson-airport-set-to-host-public-meeting-asking-for-your-opinions/51-45f0a347-2b0a-4782-92c0-71cf1c3daf15>

WBIR - <https://www.wbir.com/article/news/local/maryville-blount/mcghee-tyson-airport-hosts-public-meeting-about-expansion-project/51-849a6b9a-1685-4f71-892f-df295e15cde6>

WVLT - <https://www.wvlt.tv/video/2026/01/14/mcghee-tyson-airport-plans-major-expansion-amid-record-passenger-growth/>

### Public Information and Ongoing Engagement

The public meeting display boards and project fact sheet were posted on the project website – [www.tys-ea.com](http://www.tys-ea.com) - on January 13. The project team will continue to share updates, meeting announcements, and opportunities for public comment on the project website. Questions or comments regarding the Environmental Assessment may be submitted by email to [comments@tys-ea.com](mailto:comments@tys-ea.com).