

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)

MCGHEE TYSON AIRPORT TERMINAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



BACKGROUND

After many years of planning, the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority (MCAA) developed a 10-year plan for McGhee Tyson Airport known as Flight Plan. This long-range plan prepares the airport for the future by addressing critical infrastructure needs while enhancing the overall passenger experience.

The next step in advancing the Flight Plan is the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed passenger terminal expansion, connected actions, and enabling projects.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a federal law that requires federal agencies to evaluate potential environmental impacts of proposed projects to make more informed decisions. An EA identifies and assesses whether the project will affect the environment and offers any reasonable alternatives.

For airports, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) serves as the lead federal agency, ensuring compliance with NEPA, under Order 1050.1G.

PURPOSE & NEED

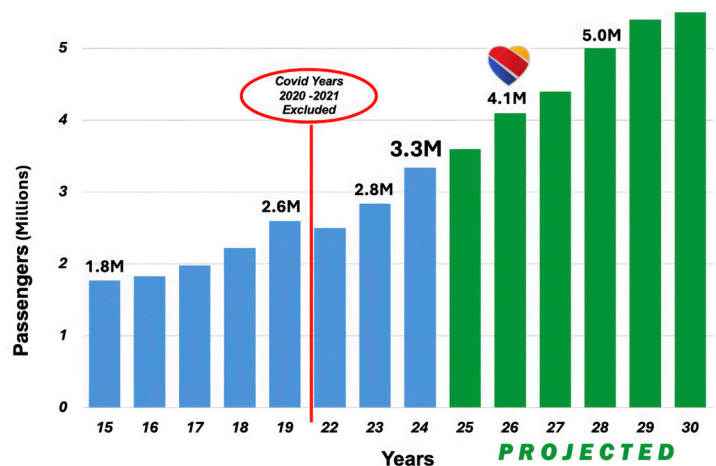
The EA process begins by defining the purpose and need for the project. The need addresses why the project is necessary. The purpose describes what the project will accomplish.

Why is this project needed?

The region is growing quickly, welcoming more residents, visitors, and businesses each year. McGhee Tyson Airport must meet the growing demands for air travel and continue to improve the overall passenger experience.

McGhee Tyson Airport had a record-breaking year in 2024 with a 17% increase serving over 3.3 million passengers. Projections indicate that total passengers at McGhee Tyson Airport will reach 4.1 million by 2027, and 4.7 million by 2030.

Total TYS Airline Passengers 2015–2030



The Solution

The Terminal Area Development Program will expand the current terminal building, passenger concourse, and other enabling projects. It is designed to:

Increase terminal capacity to meet forecasted growth

Enhance the passenger experience by alleviating congestion and improving Level of Service (LoS) across terminal functions

Accommodate larger aircraft through terminal expansion

Replace aging infrastructure

Improve operational efficiencies

- 72,100 SF expansion of the terminal building (Level 1 & 2) to include additional ticketing
- areas, baggage, and utility improvements
- Relocate 3,600' of Taxiway A 50 feet to the south

Public input is an important part of the NEPA process. As the EA progresses, MKAA will share updates, public meeting announcements, and opportunities for public comment. All project materials and meeting information will be posted on the project website once available - <https://tys-ea.com>. For questions or to submit comments on the Environmental Assessment, please email comments@tys-ea.com.

