The first Technical Advisory Meeting was held on February 20th, 2013 at 1pm in the passenger terminal at the Niagara Falls International Airport, the meeting lasted until approximately 2:15pm. Representatives from McFarland Johnson presented on the background of the project, existing conditions, environmental features as well as the sustainable approach for the project. The following sections summarize what was presented along with comments and questions received during the presentation.

What is a Master Plan?

An airport master plan is a document required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in order to be eligible to receive federal funds for airport improvements. The Niagara Falls International Airport Dynamic and Sustainable Master Plan is funded by both the FAA and New York State. An airport master plan, typically updated every 5-10 years should reflect the sponsor’s (NFTA) goals for the airport. The master plan depicts airport development covering a 10-20 year span and becomes the official FAA and New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) airport planning document.

Scope of Project

Mr. Ferraro with Niagara County Economic Development asked a question regarding the Master Plan as it related to nearby economic resources such as rail yards. Mr. Trevino with Niagara Falls Aviation also asked a question regarding development on parcels adjacent to the airport. The scope of the project was further clarified to the stakeholders by Mr. Vanecek.

An airport is an integral part of the community’s economic profile and the benefits of economic potential extend far beyond the physical airport property. While the Niagara Falls Airport Master Plan does not include an in-depth analysis of off airport utilities and infrastructure, the master plan is targeted to complement local and regional plans to help facilitate economic
Sustainable Airport Master Plan

development. External elements will be considered as they relate to adjacent development and compatible land use.

Dynamic Planning Approach

The unique and first of its kind Dynamic Master Plan approach is being used for this project with the goal of allowing the airport to consider the planning elements and requirements for a variety of scenarios that could occur over the planning period. A sample example of the Dynamic Analysis Tools was presented as part of the meeting. Over the course of this project the forecast, financial and facility requirement data will be populated into the Dynamic Analysis Tool which will be included as a final deliverable alongside the traditional master plan elements.

Incorporating Sustainability

A key element in the Niagara Falls Airport Master Plan is the incorporation of sustainability into the planning process. The goal for this process is to have airport development strike a balance between social, economic and environmental needs for the surrounding community. Tenants and users may be asked to provide data and insight on items such as energy use, greenhouse gases, air quality and waste management throughout the course of the project.
Environmental Considerations

Environmental features are important considerations when planning future airport facilities. Early Identification of Environmental Constraints including wetland delineation was conducted this past fall, the data and findings will be used throughout the planning process. Goals for the environmental considerations include:

- Incorporate findings into alternatives analysis
  - Avoid/minimize impacts
  - Consider mitigation requirements
  - Informed decision making
- Basis for future National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), and Permit Processes

Airside

Aside from the recent improvements on Runway 6-24, much of the airside infrastructure has been unchanged since the previous airport master plan conducted in 1994. In the fall of 2012 the FAA released a new design advisory circular that included sweeping changes for runway and taxiway design rationale. In addition, the FAA has recently revised operational practices for runway crossing practices within their air traffic control organization. These recent changes will have a notable impact on the airside facility requirements and development alternatives.

Terminal/Landside

With the passenger terminal being less than 3-years old, operational and capacity concerns are minimal. However the master plan will review the capacities and capabilities of the terminal building and landside features as they relate to the various forecast scenarios to help ensure that the facility can accommodate the necessary activity levels to support the community.
Public Participation Process

The Technical Advisory Committee assembled as part of this master plan will serve as a technical resource throughout the process and provide comment and insight on recommendations for NFIA. The Technical Advisory Committee meeting held on February 20th was the first of four such meetings that will occur as part of the master plan. Future meetings will discuss elements such as the forecast, facility requirements, alternatives and recommended development plan. In addition to the Technical Advisory Committee, there will be two Community Advisory Committee and two public meetings during the course of the project as well. The next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is currently planned for the June timeframe.

**Organizations Represented**

Calspan  
City of Niagara Falls  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council  
McFarland Johnson  
New York Air National Guard 107th Air Wing  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
New York State Department of Transportation  
Niagara County  
Niagara County Economic Development  
Niagara Falls Aviation (FBO)  
Niagara Falls Redevelopment  
Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority  
Standard Parking  
Town of Wheatfield  
Transportation Security Administration  
US Customs and Boarder Protection

**Organizations Invited, Not Present**

Allegiant Airlines  
Midwest Air Traffic (NFIA Tower)  
Spirit Airlines  
Town of Niagara  
US Air Force 914th Air Wing