

Atchison To Hold Public Meeting On Airport Expansion

(KAIR)--The city of Atchison is taking the next step in the process of upgrading their airport.

A public hearing to review the environmental work that has been done on the airport is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. City Manager Trey Cocking says that anytime a project of this size is undertaken, the federal government requires an environmental review to assess any environmental impacts. It will look at endangered species, wetlands, cultural resources, as well as if there are any historical resources involved.

Cocking adds that the planned upgrades would not only increase the size of the airport, but would also eliminate some current safety hazards. He says "We have a small airport...think of our current airport as compact parking only. Very small planes that can get in and out of there, and really none of the modern planes that we are accustomed to that modern day businesses want to fly in and out. So we need a wider and a longer runway. Our runway also has some severe challenges to it. If you are getting ready to depart from the north end of the runway, you cannot see the south end of the runway."

Cocking says the environmental review report has been available for the public to review for about a month.

The hearing is scheduled to take place at the Atchison City Hall at 5:00. Anyone who wants to voice their opinion on the report is encouraged to attend.

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