1   Master Plan Objectives & Goals

1.1   Introduction

The Port of Bellingham (Port) has elected to prepare a new Master Plan for the Bellingham International Airport (BLI). The purpose of the Plan being developed in conjunction with an Airport Geographic Information System (AGIS) required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is to review, revise, and reprioritize development options associated with BLI as a means of assuring that it will continue to contribute to the regional economy and transportation system in a manner that keeps pace with demand while remaining cognizant of environmental and feasibility criteria. The Master Plan is made possible with a grant from the FAA's Airport Improvement Program (AIP), contains the following work elements, and was prepared using the process depicted in Figure 1-1.

- Prepare an inventory of the existing airport conditions, current and historical activity levels, environmental conditions, and community demographic information.

- Forecast future aviation activity levels and activity levels for improvements.

- Determine the future requirements for facility expansion or upgrades needed to accommodate activity growth.

- Develop alternative concepts for airport development and analyze the best course for future development decisions with respect to cost, environmental factors, land use compatibility, and other factors.

- Prepare the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) in accordance with federal airport operating and design standards.

- Develop a financial implementation plan.

- Complete the AGIS survey and data mapping.

1.2   Master Plan Objectives

- **Gateway and Vital Transportation Hub –** Bellingham International Airport (BLI) functions as a vital regional transportation hub for passengers and air cargo, and provides a safe, dependable, and welcoming facility for the residents of Bellingham, northwest Washington, and lower mainland British Columbia, Canada.

- **Safe and Reliable Customer Service –** The airport provides a safe and reliable level of service for its users and stakeholders. The Port prides itself in placing safety foremost in its operational priorities—for commercial and private pilots, passengers, employees, and the community.

- **Fiscal Responsibility –** As a publicly owned and operated facility, the airport is fiscally responsible. It seeks to balance sources of public and tenant revenue with expenditures, charges and fees, in order to provide essential services and airport improvements.

- **Sustainability –** The airport strives to incorporate sustainability, through use of innovative technology such as exploring the potential use of solar energy for heat and a program for recycling waste at the airport. It works to provide maximum levels of service with minimum impacts to the community and environment.

- **Environment and Recreation –** The airport's setting and lands surrounding the airfield are a resource highly valued by Bellingham residents. BLI balances public access with security, and works to minimize its footprint on surrounding lands and waters.
- **Operational Efficiency –** The airport provides an airport/airfield design that works well for large and small air carrier operations and for recreational pilots. It makes best use of its employees and facilities as valued assets to run an efficient airport operation.
- **Economic Development –** The airport is an economic driver for Bellingham and Whatcom County. In supporting regional air cargo and tourism, the airport is a hub that diversifies the local and regional economy.
- **Community Service –** The citizens of Bellingham and the state of Washington take pride in their airport. BLI strives to be an integral part of the community framework.

1.3   Airport Goals

The following were developed for the airport.

Gateway and Vital Transportation Hub

- Provide an efficient, high-quality, and low cost operating environment for the airlines.
- Serve as a competitive regional hub and low-cost alternative for both passengers and air cargo.

Safe and Reliable Customer Service

- Maintain reputation as a safe and technologically advanced airport.
- Create an environment that attracts and sustains aviation and aviation related business tenants.

Community Service and Fiscal Responsibility

- Grow with the community to meet regional needs, while respecting limits to growth.
- Involve the community in airport planning and gain its support for airport improvement projects.

Environment

- Maximize the full potential of lands and buildings and adapt to changes in the business and natural environment.
- Minimize the airport's environmental footprint on surrounding lands, waters, and neighborhoods.
- Develop the airport in balance with the adjacent community and natural environment.

Leadership

- Make BLI a great place to work; attract and retain great employees.
- Continue to pursue innovation and technological advances.
- Serve as a model airport for the state of Washington.

Figure 1-1:   BLI Planning Process

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
Project Initiation	Establish Plan Focus	Review Alternatives	Realize the Future	Project Close-out

STEP 1 — Project Initiation
- Develop Study Parameters
- Develop Public Information Program
- Develop AGIS Information

WP

STEP 2 — Establish Plan Focus

Document Existing Conditions
- Emphasis Areas
- Facility Assessment
- Environmental Conditions Inventory
- Utility Inventory
- Define Airport Catchment Area

WP

Develop Aviation Forecasts
- PAX
- Cargo
- GA

WP

Determine Facility Requirements

WP

STEP 3 — Review Alternatives

Identify & Evaluate Alternatives
- Terminal Development
- General Aviation

WP

STEP 4 — Realize the Future

Develop Airport Layout Plan (ALP)
- eALP
- Traditional ALP

WP

Implementation Plan
- Environmental Overview
- Implementation Schedule
- Funding Availability Assessment

WP

Feasibility Analysis
- AIP Funds
- PFC's
- CFC's
- O&M Expenses
- Local Share

WP

STEP 5 — Project Close-out

Prepare Draft Reports and ALP

Final Reports and ALP

Meetings markers:
- SHM (Step 1)
- SHM / FAA (Step 2)
- SHM / PIM (Step 3, first)
- SHM / PIM (Step 3, second)
- SHM / FAA (Step 4)
- SHM (Step 5)

Legend:
- **SHM** Stakeholders Meeting
- **PIM** Public Information Meeting
- **FAA** Formal FAA Approval Needed
- **WP** Working Paper Issued