

## TDOT Aeronautics Division Environmental Determination Checklist Guide

**Airport Name and Identifier:** Include Airport name and identifier.

**Project Name:** Provide a shortened project name such as: rehab runway, extend runway, or install fencing. (Provide only the project for which you are requesting funding for)

**Brief Project Description:** Give a brief description and location of the project. For example, installing fencing around the perimeter of the airport property, trenching near Hangar 5, clearing 2.1 acres of obstructions on airport property, installing three security gates, overlaying the runway. Attach a detailed drawing showing exactly what and where the project will be.

**Answer Yes or No based on the guidance provided for the questions below:**

Will the proposed action have the potential to cause a significant adverse impact to:

<p><b>1. Cultural resources (historic properties)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the proposed project, located on airport property, impact any buildings older than 50 years? If so, contact the local historical society to determine if the structure is listed or eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The governmental office having jurisdiction over the airport property will make the determination as to the importance of the impacts that the proposed project will cause to a building older than 50 years. If the proposed project will impact an old structure that is off airport property (even if the Airport owns an easement over the property), an EA may be required.</li> <li>- Does the project involve grading or any land disturbance? Is there any history of archaeological artifacts being found on or around the airport? If so, an additional study may be required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Properties protected under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the area where your proposed project will be built contain a <b>public</b> park, recreation area, wildlife or waterfowl refuge, or a historic site (archaeological site or old building) of national, state or local significance?</li> <li>- The governmental body having jurisdiction over the public site will determine the significance of the impacts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Natural, ecological, or scenic resources of Federal, Tribal, State, or local significance.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the proposed project involve any ground disturbance?</li> <li>- Would the disturbance significantly affect any resource that could be of concern?</li> </ul>

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<p><b>4.</b> Resources protected by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (when a water resource is to be controlled or modified)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the proposed project impact a stream or wetlands?</li> <li>- If so, an aquatic study may be required to determine the significance of impacts to the stream/wetland habitat and any aquatic species present.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.</b> Noise levels over noise-sensitive areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If the proposed project will not cause an increase in aircraft operations or allow a louder or larger aircraft to utilize the airport, no impacts will occur. If the airport has less than 90,000 operations per year, no noise analysis will be required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6.</b> Air Quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the proposed project have the potential to cause an increase in aircraft operations or automobile traffic?</li> <li>- Is the airport located in a county designated as a non-attainment area for violation of one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards? A project that is “presumed to conform” is exempt from rules that apply to those areas. The list of projects presumed to conform are: routine maintenance and repair activities, routine installation and operation of aviation navigation aids, actions affecting an existing structure where future activities will be similar in scope to activities currently being conducted. No air quality analysis is required if the aircraft operations are below 180,000.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7.</b> Water Quality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are there any water sources on the project site (stream, pond, wetland, drainage ditches that drain into another stream)?</li> <li>- Will the proposed project increase water runoff, such as additional pavement? Include a description of measures that will be implemented to reduce the potential of significant pollution of the water resource, such as a commitment to follow the FAA Advisory Circular 150/5370-10A, Standards for Specifying Construction of Airports.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8.</b> Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species, or critical habitat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the project require ground disturbance? If the construction is to be in a highly disturbed area, then it is unlikely that any endangered species will be affected.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9.</b> Wetlands and other Waters of the US</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the project involve filling a wetland or filling or culverting a stream? An additional study may be required.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>10. Floodplains</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If grading or fill is involved with the proposed project, the flood maps should be checked to determine if the fill would be placed in a floodplain.</li> <li>- If impacts would occur, an additional study may be required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. Coastal Zones</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only counties along the coastline, and airports that are located adjacent to the coastline would be concerned with this resource.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12. Prime or unique farmland (land in agriculture production converted to aviation use)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If the property being used for the proposed project is currently being used for agriculture production and is zoned for agriculture, an additional study will be required. If both of these factors are not present, there are no significant impacts to this resource.</li> </ul>
<p><b>13. Wild and Scenic Rivers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Tennessee, the only river designated as a Wild and Scenic River is the Obed River in Morgan County. Most airport projects should not affect this resource.</li> </ul>
<p><b>14. Energy Supply/Natural Resources</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CATEX projects rarely have significant impacts to the local energy supply or use a significant portion of natural resources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>15. An increase in congestion from surface transportation.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will a new access road enter a busy highway at a point that it will cause traffic congestion or a dangerous situation?</li> </ul>
<p><b>16. A division or disruption of an established community, or a disruption of orderly, planned development, or an inconsistency with plans or goals that have been adopted by the community.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Does the proposed project include acquisition and relocation of residences and businesses?</li> <li>- Is adequate replacement housing available?</li> <li>- Does the acquisition disrupt a community by acquiring and moving some of the residences, but leaving others in a community that will be subjected to airport operations where they have not been affected in the past?</li> </ul>

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In addition, is the proposed project likely to:

Be highly controversial on environmental grounds?	- “Highly controversial” means a <u>substantial</u> dispute exists as to the size, nature, or effect of the proposed project or when there is reasonable disagreement over the risks of causing environmental harm.
Be inconsistent with any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law relating to the environmental aspects of the proposed action?	- Has any government official voiced opposition to the proposed project in an official manner?
Directly, indirectly, or cumulatively create a significant impact on the human environment? (For example, lighting, visual, land uses, hazardous materials contamination)	- Have there been any reasonable concerns voiced by local residents concerning the growth, development, and operation of the airport?

### Additional Notes and Considerations

- Identify the area of land where the proposed project will be constructed. Confirm that the project will be confined to airport property, either fee simple ownership or controlled by easements. If the project site is not considered a part of the airport property, or under control of the airport, impacts could be considered to occur off airport property, so an EA may be required.
- Some responses may be obtained from the preparer’s own observations, previous environmental documents or research. Some of the best sources for information are the local jurisdictional (federal, state and local) resource agencies responsible for the impact categories.