April 20, 2016

Re: Update to the Bowman Field Airport Area Safety Program

Dear Bowman Field Neighbor:

As you may recall, the Airport Authority announced the Bowman Field Airport Area Safety Program in December 2011 to improve the safety for the airport’s users and neighbors, to protect the airspace needed for runway approaches and to preserve the airfield’s operating capabilities in effect in February 2012.

Since then, more than four-plus years have passed and a series of delays in the process required to obtain federal funding in the Program has emerged — with five schedule changes in just the past 12 months — and, of course, during this time trees have continued to grow further into protected airspace.

In recognition of its commitment to serve the current aircraft fleet with pre-existing levels of safety, efficiency, viability and usability of the airport and to enhance the safety for our neighbors, on April 20, 2016, the LRAA Board passed a resolution approving a contingency plan to proceed without federal funding for the easement/acquisition and tree mitigation project if the FAA is unable to meet its most recent (April 22 through July 14) schedule.

The resolution keeps in place program components for the impacted neighborhood areas. These areas are, in fact, smaller than when the program was announced in 2011. These components include:

- Purchasing avigation easements over necessary properties to gain airspace protection. Offers will be based on market value appraisals conducted by licensed and certified property appraisers.
- Assessing trees (by a certified arborist) as to whether they can be trimmed or should be removed.
- Providing two low-canopy replacement trees for every tree removed, from a list compiled by a certified arborist for use in this climate.
- Providing a re-landscaping allowance of up to $2,500 over and above the cost of replacement trees if the tree is removed from a landscaped area.
- Providing a one-year warranty for new landscaping and a two-year warranty for replacement trees.
- Paying for tree trimming and/or removal, stump removal and yard restoration.

Thank you for your continuing patience and feel free to call Trish S. Burke at 363-8506 if you have any questions.