



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Chicago Airports District Office  
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March 27, 2026

Mr. Eric Otto, Senior Water Resources Engineer  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Coastal Management Program  
160 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 703  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
[eric.otto@illinois.gov](mailto:eric.otto@illinois.gov)

RE: Waukegan National Airport (UGN), Replacement Runway 5/23 Program  
Coastal Zone Consistency Review Request

Dear Mr. Otto:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is currently preparing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Replacement Runway 5/23 at Waukegan National Airport (UGN or Airport) located in Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois. UGN’s existing Runway 5/23 is no longer fully compliant with FAA design standards. To provide a runway that is fully compliant with FAA standards, the Waukegan Port District (WPD), which owns UGN, proposes a new runway that enhances safety, brings the airport into compliance, and protects both airport users and the surrounding community. Replacement Runway 5/23 is proposed parallel to, and northwest of, existing Runway 5/23, as shown on the attached Sponsor’s Proposed Action figure.

The project is expected to be initiated in 2026 and completed by 2030, as identified in the approximate project schedule below.

<b>APPROXIMATE PROJECT SCHEDULE</b>	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
Land Acquisition	June 2026-February 2027
Completion of Perimeter Fence	February 2027 – November 2027
Construction of Relocated Runway 5/23	August 2027 - April 2029
Tree and Obstruction Removal	October 2027 – June 2028
Roadway Tunnel Construction	November 2027 - October 2029
Green Bay Road Improvements (by IDOT)	November 2028-October 2030
Construction of Parallel Taxiway Bridge	November 2028 - July 2030
Installation of Navigational Aids (NAVAIDS)	May 2029 – October 2029
Conversion of Existing Runway 5/23 to a Taxiway for the Relocated Runway	May 2029 – October 2029
Demolition of Existing Runway 5/23	May 2029 – October 2029
Construction of Extended Parallel Taxiway	November 2029 - July 2030

The Proposed Action includes the construction of a replacement Runway 5-23, partially within the Illinois Coastal Zone Boundary, which extends through the airport to Green Bay Road. The high point of the replacement runway profile would generally be at the proposed Green Bay Road tunnel, and stormwater drainage would be conveyed away from the proposed Green Bay Road tunnel longitudinally in both directions; therefore, future runway drainage patterns would generally remain consistent with the existing watershed boundaries. Stormwater would be managed with the use of dry detention basins on the airport property. Some floodplain encroachment would occur, along with the loss of approximately 4.7 acres of wetlands and 1,052 linear feet of stream. A Clean Water Act Section 404/401 permit authorization, Lake County Watershed Development Permit, and compensatory floodplain storage and mitigation for wetlands and streams are all expected to be necessary.

The proposed activity will have no reasonably foreseeable effect on any coastal use or resource. The proposed activity complies with Illinois' approved coastal management program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such policies. The FAA is requesting your concurrence with this negative determination within 60 days in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. Concurrence will be assumed if its response is not received within 60 days plus any extension, as applicable pursuant to 15 CFR 940.41(b).

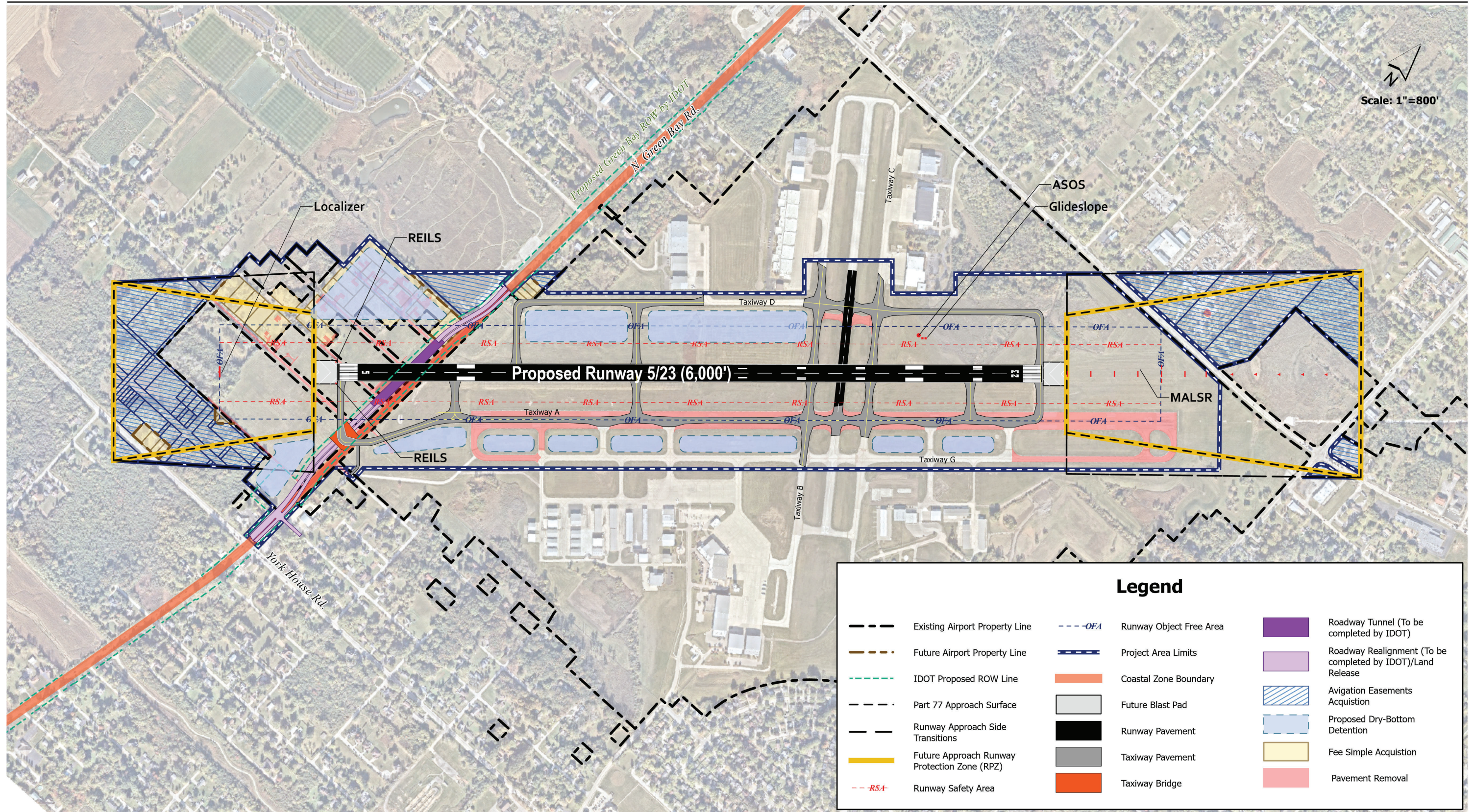
If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

**CRAIG KENNETH PULLINS** Digitally signed by CRAIG KENNETH PULLINS  
Date: 2026.03.27 07:45:11 -05'00'

Craig Pullins  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Chicago Airports District Office

Enclosure:  
Proposed Action Exhibit



Source: [2400670700] Aerial: NearMap dated 10/2024



**Sponsor's Proposed Action**