

RESOLUTION 2025-014
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
DIRECTING STAFF TO MOVE FORWARD EFFORTS REQUIRED FOR THE
FORMATION OF AN AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AND FORMAL
ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ASSIGN AND TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT
AUTHORITY THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE NORTHERN
COLORADO REGIONAL AIRPORT, AND EXTENDING THE JOINT AIRPORT
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE FOR CONTINUED REVIEW AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Part 2 of Article 1 of Title 29 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (“C.R.S.”) authorizes governments to cooperate and contract with one another to provide any function, service, or facility lawfully authorized to each, including the sharing of costs.

B. Pursuant to their authority, the City of Fort Collins (“City”) and the City of Loveland (“Loveland”) (collectively, the “Cities”) jointly own property in Loveland (the “Property”) known as the Northern Colorado Regional Airport (the “Airport”).

C. The Cities currently operate and maintain the Airport pursuant to that certain Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement for the Joint Operation of the Fort Collins-Loveland Airport dated January 22, 2015, as amended (the “2015 IGA”), which also established the Northern Colorado Regional Airport Commission (“Airport Commission”).

D. Pursuant to the 2015 IGA, both Cities maintain full control and decision-making authority of the Airport, and the Airport Commission is charged with facilitating communication between the Cities and advising the Cities concerning Airport matters including policy development, land use, operational and capital budgets, and strategic planning.

E. In recent years, as the Airport has expanded its operations and infrastructure to serve the residents of the Cities, the disparate governance structure of the Airport has resulted in inefficiencies and redundancies.

F. In 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution 2023-101, to form a Joint Committee With Loveland Regarding Airport Governance (“Committee”) to meet and discuss and refine alternatives for updated governance for the Airport and, if practicable, provide recommendations to the City Councils about Airport governance. In Resolution 2023-101, Council appointed Mayor Jeni Arndt and Councilmember Julie Pignataro to the Committee.

G. The Committee met four times in 2024 to review and discuss options for Airport governance, considering the goals of:

- a. Providing good stewardship for the Airport as a regional asset;
- b. Limiting liability to the Airport sponsors to an acceptable level; and
- c. Providing consistency and clarity for Airport staff and the community as to policy direction, day-to-day operations and other aspects of the Airport's planning and operations.

H. At the Committee's final meeting on December 16, 2024, after reviewing trends, research, and models of airport governance over the course of 2024, the Committee recommended that the Cities pursue the creation of an airport as the most optimal governance model to effectively use resources, to best manage financial risks and obligations, to convene experienced board members for the authority, and to most efficiently operate the Airport under a single public authority.

I. The Cities are authorized cooperate to create an airport authority, pursuant to the Colorado Public Airport Authority Act, Part 1 of Article 3 of Title 41, C.R.S.

J. Significant preparations and a series of actions by the Cities are necessary in order to form an airport authority, including initiating and approving airport authority formation and governing documents, negotiating an Intergovernmental Agreement between Fort Collins and Loveland to establish and set ongoing requirements and conditions for the Airport Authority (the "Authority IGA"), drafting and executing assignment and assumption agreements, transferring contracts and property, and assessing and planning for the transition of staff support, operational functions, and other resources.

K. The Council desires to move forward the preparations and work to develop and present to Council for approval the action needed to proceed to exercise the power in C.R.S. § 41-3-104 to create, in combination with the City of Loveland, an airport authority. This would include negotiation of the Authority IGA, as well as action to transfer Airport management and operation to that authority in order to achieve efficiencies in its operation, to effectively use the resources necessary to support the Airport, and to ensure an optimal governing structure as the Airport strives to best serve residents of the City and other communities in Northern Colorado.

L. The Committee has recommended that it continue to work with staff in order to provide policy and process input to staff in connection with the formation actions, negotiation of the IGA, and other matters related to consideration and formation of an Airport Authority.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS as follows:

Section 1. The City Council hereby directs City staff to move forward with the work necessary to prepare and ultimately present to Council for approval the actions needed to establish an airport authority as described in this Resolution.

Section 2. The City Council hereby modifies the charge to the Joint Committee With Loveland Regarding Airport Governance for the Northern Colorado Regional Airport to include ongoing review of the various items to be developed for presentation to the City Councils to ultimately establish and set the terms and conditions for a new Airport Authority for the Northern Colorado Regional Airport.

Section 3. The City Council's prior appointments to the Committee will continue until such time as Council terminates or modifies such appointments.

Passed and adopted on March 4, 2024.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: March 4, 2025

Approving Attorney: Dianne Criswell