

# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



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## STAFF

Ginny Sawyer, Policy and Project Manager

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## SUBJECT

**Resolution 2025–014 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.**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to consider a resolution stating support for the City of Fort Collins and the City of Loveland to pursue the creation of an Airport Authority to manage and run the Northern Colorado Regional Airport.

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

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## BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Council discussed this item at a work session on January 28, 2025, and expressed interest in bringing a resolution indicating its support for continued work by the City of Fort Collins and the City of Loveland to pursue the creation of an Airport Authority to manage and run the Northern Colorado Regional Airport.

The Loveland City Council also voiced support for pursuing an Airport Authority at their February 11, 2025, work session.

### Historical Context

The Cities of Fort Collins and Loveland agreed in 1963 to jointly build and operate a regional airport. It opened in 1964 under joint agreement and ownership and serves as an important niche in our transportation infrastructure. In addition to its many benefits the airport has faced challenges over the years, both financially and in the governance structure which has challenged the ability of the airport to function at its greatest potential.

The airport is jointly owned and operated by the cities of Loveland and Fort Collins; full control and decision-making authority is placed with the City Councils of both cities. Under the current governance structure, updated in 2015, the Northern Colorado regional Airport Commission is charged with facilitating communication between the cities and advising the Councils concerning Airport issues such as general

policies, land use, budget, capital improvements and strategic planning. The Commission is comprised of two members each from Fort Collins and Loveland Council and staff and three resident members.

Changes in the growing cities and the airport facility itself have necessitated reassessments and updates to the governance structure. The joint ownership model presents some challenges, including managing the processes necessary for dual municipal control and decision-making in coordination with the delegation of responsibilities to the Airport.

### **Airport Governance Report**

In 2023, a new effort was initiated to identify and evaluate the full array of governance options available to the airport and the Cities. As part of this work staff worked with Dam Reimer, joint special legal counsel, who prepared a report (the Report) identifying and summarizing options. Following the release of the Report, an Airport Governance Committee was formed consisting of two Councilmembers from each city to review, discuss, and make recommendations.

The Airport Governance Committee (Committee) met four times in 2024. The Committee reviewed and discussed numerous options in consideration of the following goals:

- Good steward for regional asset FNL infrastructure.
- Limit liability of airport sponsors to acceptable level.
- Consistency for staff and stakeholders (community) /Clarity to stakeholders on policy direction, day to day operations, etc.

At its final meeting, the Committee agreed to recommend to both City Councils to take the steps necessary to move forward efforts to create an Airport Authority (AA).

The Committee has also agreed that ongoing work by the Committee to provide input to staff as work on the formation of an AA and negotiations of a related Intergovernmental Agreement proceed.

### **CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

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None.

### **BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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None.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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None.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Work Session Summary, January 28, 2025