

# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



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## STAFF

Ginny Sawyer, Policy and Project Manager

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## SUBJECT

**Resolution 2025-090 Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Cities of Loveland and Fort Collins Regarding the Joint Operation of the Northern Colorado Regional Airport in Furtherance of a Transition to an Airport Authority.**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to consider a Resolution updating the current Intergovernmental Agreement (“IGA”) regarding the Loveland/Fort Collins Airport, eliminating the Airport Commission and reverting to the pre-2015 model in furtherance of the goals of continuing to successfully jointly operate the airport while working towards the formation of an airport authority.

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

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## BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

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 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.

In 2023, a new effort was initiated to identify and evaluate the full array of governance options available to the airport and the Cities. Both Councils took action to create a Joint Committee Regarding Airport Governance (the “Committee”). Dan Reimer, joint special legal counsel, prepared a report identifying and summarizing governance 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 Committee met four times in 2024 to review and discuss numerous governance options. Ultimately, the Committee recommended an Airport Authority model. Considerations leading to the recommendation included:

- 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.
- Streamlining of operational decision making.

In January of 2025, Council adopted Resolution 2025-014, as Loveland City Council Likewise adopted Resolution R-26-2025, to express support and continued effort to pursue the change in governance of the Airport to an Airport Authority model. Throughout 2025, staff from both cities have been meeting to craft a new intergovernmental agreement (“IGA”) and to consider the foundational documents and process to stand up an Authority.

At the September 8, 2025, meeting of the Committee, the following recommendation was put forth: by the end of October 2025 adopt an IGA for joint operation of the Airport between the Cities, similar to the pre-2015 model, that will provide a governance approach while the Cities continue to assess a potential transition to an Airport Authority.

The new IGA and Exhibit set forth the Cities’ joint operation of the Airport, and delegates certain decisions per the agreement and local law to the City Managers and Airport Director. The new IGA replaces the current IGA, executed in 2015 and amended in 2016 and 2019, removing the Airport Commission and shifting process and decision-making to the Councils, City Managers, and Airport Director.

The new IGA and the governance structure is intended to streamline both decision-making and workload, especially when considering three new commissioners would need to be selected and on-boarded in 2026. At the September 29, 2025, meeting of the Airport Commission, concerns were expressed that sunseting the Commission may result in a lack of feedback. There was recognition that comments may be brought to both Councils’ public comment processes and there was a request from the Commission that the Airport Director provide a report of comments at future Airport stakeholder meetings to the Councils.

## **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. Governance Committee Notes
2. Presentation
3. Resolution 2025-090