

CHAPTER 1-INTRODUCTION

1.01 General

Erie International Airport (ERI), a publicly-owned, public-use, primary commercial service facility, serves the aviation needs of Erie County, the Western Region of Pennsylvania, Western New York State, and Northeast Ohio. The Erie Municipal Airport Authority, the owners and operators of ERI, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have initiated an Airport Master Plan for ERI in order to determine the potential of the airport and to identify specific opportunities for improving its airport facilities.

1.02 Purpose and Scope of Study

Aviation planning is a process that needs to be addressed periodically. The most recent Airport Master Plan, prepared by Coffman Associates, Inc., was completed in 1990. The present state of aviation-related development in Erie County and the Western Pennsylvania and Tri-State Regions needs to be analyzed to measure the ability to accommodate existing and additional aviation demand. To do this, it is necessary to logically plan future facilities through the development of a new Airport Master Plan. Such a development plan for the airport must consider the factors necessary to properly develop the Airport over a 20-year period, and consideration must be given to the interaction of airport operations and demand among other neighboring aviation facilities.

The main objective of this study is the preparation of an Airport Master Plan to determine the extent, type, and schedule of development needed to accommodate existing needs and future aviation demand at the Airport. The recommended development shall be presented in the following three planning periods: short-term (2001-2005), intermediate-term (2006-2010), and long-term (2011-2020). The recommended development program will satisfy aviation demand and be compatible with the environment, community development, and other transportation modes. Above all else, the plan must be technically sound, practical, and economically feasible. The following objectives shall also serve as a guide in the preparation of the study:

- To provide an effective graphic representation of the ultimate development of the Airport
- To establish a schedule of priorities and phasing for the various improvements proposed in the plan
- To present the pertinent backup information and data which were essential to the development of the master plan
- To describe the various concepts and alternatives which were considered in the establishment of the proposed plan

- To provide a concise and descriptive report so that the impact and logic of its recommendations can be clearly understood by local residents and by those authorities and public agencies that are charged with the approval, promotion, and funding of the improvements proposed in the Master Plan
- To ensure that the Airport thoroughly complements and supports development envisioned for Erie County, the Western Pennsylvania Region and the Tri-State Region
- To ensure the reliability and safety of airport operations.

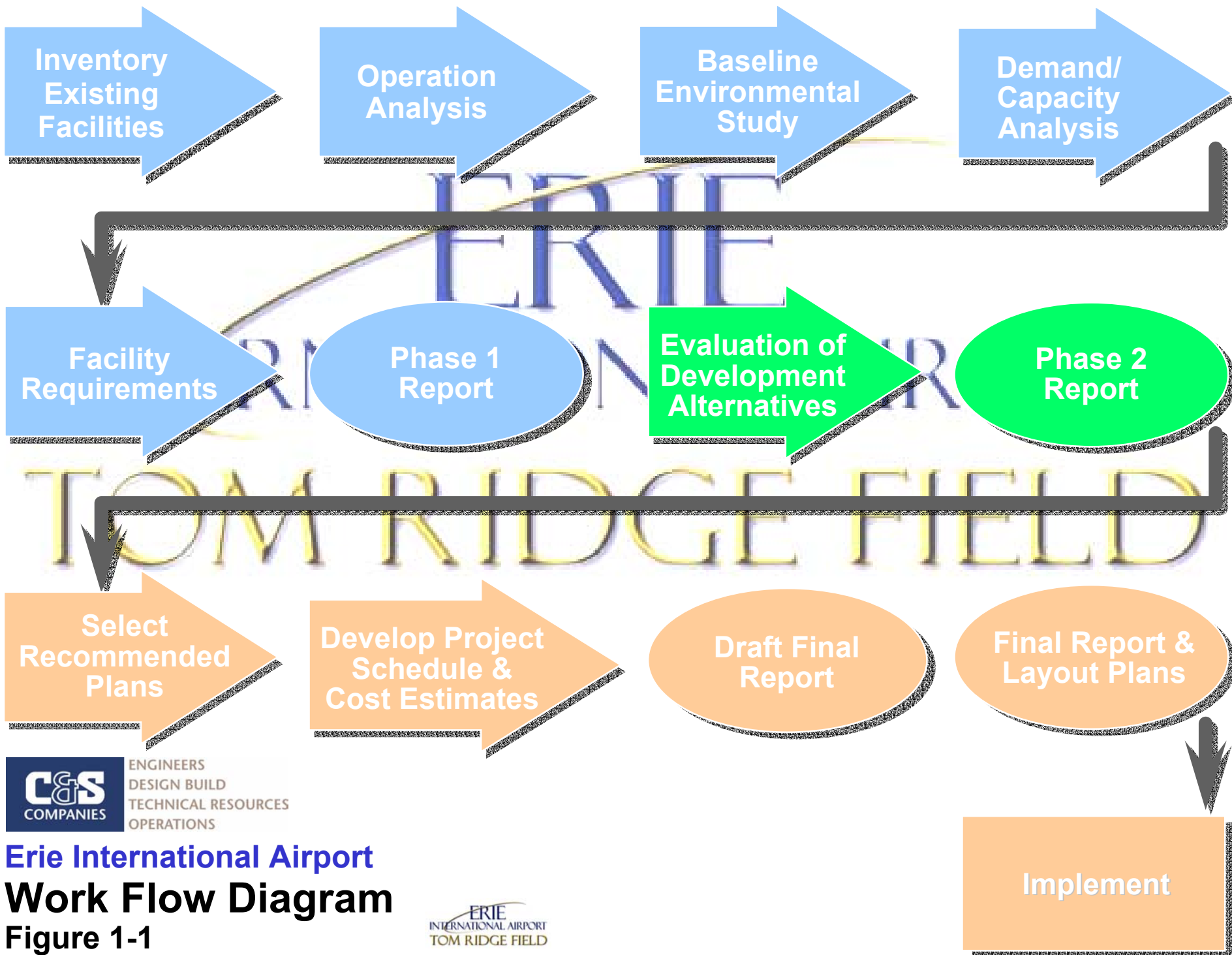
1.03 The Planning Process

The Airport Master Plan is comprised of four basic steps (see Figure 1-1). The first step involves an examination of existing conditions, including data collection and inventory, operations analysis, and an environmental study. Also included in this phase is a needs analysis which involves preparing aviation demand forecasts, translating these forecast values into a listing of required airport facilities, and analyzing the demand/capacity relationships at the Airport. In this master plan, this step is presented in the Phase 1 Report.

The second step, using these analyses as a basis for preparing alternative development concepts, concludes with the evaluation of these alternatives, and is presented in the Phase 2 Report.

The third step involves the identification and detailing of recommended plans and presents a staged Capital Improvement Program (CIP), financial program, and an analysis of economic and financial feasibility.

The fourth and final step is the implementation of the plan. This Airport Master Plan is meant to be an active guide for the future development of the Airport, and should be used as such.



**Erie International Airport
Work Flow Diagram
Figure 1-1**

