

# Airport Question & Answer

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**Will my taxes go up because of the new airport?**

No, the project is funded by federal grants.

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**Is the 28E agreement between the city of Pella and the City of Oskaloosa legal?**

Yes, the agreement is still valid. The court found the section that talked about termination has some invalid language, not the whole section, and allowed the county to exit the agreement. The rest of the agreement is still good.

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**Why is the city annexing land owned by SCRAA?**

To be able to plan for airport zoning and to extend infrastructure to the area. The city considers the area a prime growth opportunity especially around the Northwest connector.

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**Is the city using eminent domain to take land from owners?**

No, the city is negotiating with property owners and is offering to buy fair and square.

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**Will the airport take farms out of production?**

Not completely. Airport land can still be farmed just like the land owned by the Oskaloosa airport.

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**What's the benefit of the project?**

Construction of a regional airport is expected to create jobs and more business activity in the community. The airport itself will require jobs and the support industries that typically grow around airports will add more jobs. The investment will help the community in the long run through an added tax base and sales tax revenue.

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**What's the benefit for Mahaska County?**

Taxbase for the county to increase the revenue that pays for running the county government and providing services such as maintaining roads for the rural community. The county needs to grow to keep up with rising costs of those services.

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**The city of Oskaloosa already has an airport. Why does it need another one?**

The existing airport is inadequate and cannot be modified to handle commercial aircraft. The city believes that a regional airport will be an anchor that brings in a lot of businesses to the region and encourages the existing to grow and or stay in the community.

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**How do we know that?**

DOT studied the economic impacts of those types of airports. The study shows an increase in economic activity because of airports.

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**Some cities built one and they don't see significant growth?**

Every community is different. There are other factors at play such as location and policies. We have the best location based on DOT and FAA assessments. And we have global headquarters within our community.

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**What is the main purpose of the airport and who will use it?**

The facility is to serve airline service, air cargo, military, air medical, aerial application for agriculture, public safety, Life Flight or National Guard response, and grassroots aviation. Anybody can use the airport. Any business can use it and the community can benefit from the services provided by businesses. Most importantly, it provides "infrastructure" to attract large scale corporations to locate in Mahaska County. Businesses looking for sites to locate in will find the community attractive because the airport provides access to markets and easy form of transportation.

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**How many years has the regional airport concept been part of the City's long-term plan for economic growth?**

About 20 years

