



*Las Vegas • McCarran International Airport*

# **NEWS RELEASE**

*Clark County Department of Aviation - Randall H. Walker, Director*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Airport Officials Discuss McCarran's Economic Impact And Final Construction Plans**

*Revised Master Capital Plan will accommodate 53 million passengers*

Today, Clark County Board of Commissioners received the 2004-2005 Clark County Airport System Impact Study from economic professor Dr. R Keith Schwer of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The conservative study concluded that McCarran International Airport, including the county's five general aviation facilities, not only provides jobs directly, but supports countless local businesses and other surrounding markets indirectly through a "daisy-chain" effect with an estimated \$27.8 billion annual total impact to the community.

The survey meets the standardized criteria for airport impact studies as defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the FAA. Surveys were sent to airport tenants, while second and third surveys were sent to local businesses and residents. The results show there is a direct benefit to having the Clark County Airport System and its spin-off market effect has created 417,000 jobs that positively affect the community.

"A study has not been done since 1990 and, at that time, the survey concluded a \$17.6 billion a year economic impact due to the county's aviation system. Times have changed, the passenger count growth rate is astounding and we are now the sixth busiest airport in the country," said Randall H. Walker, Clark County Department of Aviation director.

In addition to the economic impact study, the board was presented with McCarran's revised master capital plan. Originally presented to the board in March 2000, the master capital plan is used to determine what projects take precedence in order to meet the community's needs. Last year, McCarran registered month after month of record-breaking traffic totaling almost 41.5 million passengers. To balance customer service and to streamline the airport experience for the millions of travelers who visit the valley, Walker outlined a new aggressive \$2.4 billion construction plan.

A total of 16 major construction projects, from roadway improvements to a pedestrian bridge, are outlined to meet the demands of growth. As part of the final build-out of McCarran, Walker proposed building the last wing of the D gates expansion first, and afterwards build Terminal 3 in one phase instead of two. When the two terminal projects are complete, McCarran will ultimately house a total of 117 gates.

"Statistics have historically shown that passenger demand continues to be linked with hotel room inventory," stated Walker. "Last year McCarran hosted nearly 41.5 million and the airport can process up to another 12 million passengers, if, and only if, we construct our final build-out plan."

The facilities included in the master capital plan will enable McCarran to host up to 53 million passengers annually by 2011.

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