

A Proposal:

Yellow shading has been added to identify lands that Massport could (and should!) divest, away from airport use. These lands could instead be kept mostly as natural areas to restore and protect the headwaters of the Shawsheen River.

Northside hangar development is not needed as ample facilities and development potential exists on the south side, between the primary runway (11-29) and the Air Force facilities. Note the many large hangars approved within the 2018 ALP (brown hatching within thick black lines). Note also the pink line defining the RPZ (the only critical land area that must be controlled for airport operations).

The image below is the main portion of the KBED Airport Layout Plan (ALP), from April 2018. The plan was created by Massport, the airport authority responsible for development, maintenance, and operations at KBED.

FAA's ATADS data shows that, in 2023, KBED averaged 336 operations/day (232 itinerant, 104 local pattern). KBED operations have steadily declined by an average 1.6% per year since 1990, when there were 640 ops/day.

FAA's ADIP data indicates this airport occupies 1,125-acres, far more acreage than is needed to operate efficiently. All of the yellow area could be divested. ADIP also indicates the airport is base to 222 aircraft (121 singles, 22 twins, 68 jets, & 11 helicopters).

FAA's TAF data shows based aircraft declined 49% from 462 in 1990 to 234 in 2022; during this same timeframe, U.S. population grew by 35%.

Benefits of Divestment of Excess KBED Airport Land:

- 1) Airport safety would be improved by eliminating runway crossings required to serve facilities on both the north and south sides of the primary runway.
- 2) Maintenance costs would be greatly reduced by eliminating need for taxiways into the northwest and northeast quadrants.
- 3) Hundreds of acres would be freed up, to serve non-airport uses, especially land conservation but also housing and commerce, while potentially generating property taxes.
- 4) Restoration and protection of the headwaters area will improve the health and ecology of the Shawsheen River watershed.

