



Inverness Airport Safe Approach Project: Virtual Open House Meeting

Questions -and- Answers Summary | June 25, 2026

Attendance

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Questions and Answers

Question: Does red indicate that all trees in that area will be removed? How many mature trees will be removed, how many will be replaced, and what measures will be taken to replace their environmental benefits?

Answer: The trees shown in red penetrate the runway approach most significantly (greater than ten feet) and are therefore considered the most problematic. Trees shown in orange are penetrating the runway approach slightly, generally from zero to ten feet. Although not currently penetrating the protected airspace, trees shown in yellow are areas of concern at this point in time as they are within ten feet of the approach surface.

The preferred method for mitigating tree obstruction hazards is tree removal with tree replacement, consistent with FAA requirements. The number of trees determined necessary for removal will depend on factors such as but not including height and the significance of the impact to the approach. At a future stage of this project, Citrus County, and the FAA, will review tree replacement options, including deciding which tree options would provide an appropriate height to remain under the FAA's protected airspace. An opt-out of the tree replacement payment option may be considered for those homeowners interested in having the trees removed without a replacement.

Question: Has a comprehensive noise study been completed regarding potential noise pollution impacts, and will the results be shared with the public?

Answer: No noise study has been conducted at this point in time. After the tree removal, the intent is that impacted parcels will not be left barren and that existing trees will be replaced with lower-growth trees or each homeowner may be compensated according to the number of trees removed and use the funds to purchase and plant new lower growth

trees according to the owner's desires.

Question: Have environmental issues been addressed, and will related information be shared on the website? Will independent air quality monitoring be conducted before, during, and after any expansion?

Answer: Airport expansion is not planned as part of this project. At this time, it is not known whether noise or air quality would be included in a required environmental assessment. The survey results, presentations, and related work completed to date will be provided to the FAA. The FAA will use this information as part of its review and decision-making process to determine whether an environmental assessment is required or whether the Airport may proceed directly with the tree removal program.

Question: What are the projected traffic increases, and how will they affect nearby neighborhoods?

Answer: The purpose of the tree removal program is to improve the safety of existing air traffic by clearing the obstructions around the airport property. No aircraft or vehicular traffic increases are expected as a result of this tree removal project.

Question: Do the plans include tree-for-tree replacement?

Answer: Tree replacement could be handled in one or more ways, depending on the final program approach. For example, after an easement is granted and tree removal occurs, removed trees could be replaced with low-growth or height-appropriate trees based on a determined replacement scale, such as 1:1 or 1:2. The scale of the replacements and the ratio may consider the existing tree width, the canopy, and other criteria associated with replanting best practices. Replacement trees could be located in the same general area or in a nearby appropriate location on the parcel.

Alternatively, a property owner could receive a payment or allowance for tree replacement, allowing the owner to replace the tree or trees using the administrative payment provided in lieu of direct replacement.

Question: What would cause the project timeline to extend by approximately 24 months?

Answer: Once the project team provides the FAA with survey data, project information, and documentation from this public information effort, the FAA will determine whether an environmental assessment (EA) is required under the NEPA process. If the FAA determines that an environmental process is required, that process would likely extend the project timeline by up to two years. If an EA is not required, the project could begin as soon as six months, or potentially as early as three months.

Question: Plan C shows entire lots in red. Is the intent to remove every tree on each lot?

Answer: The intent and need are to remove trees identified in red where they are confirmed obstructions. The preferred approach would be to replace obstruction trees with smaller-growth trees, where appropriate. The final removal plan remains to be determined.

This survey outreach is intended to share project information at this point in time. The project team, including the County, Airport, FAA, and project consultants, will review the project details. Project delivery is also dependent on funding, which is determined by the FAA.

Question: The website mentions funding for trees if funds are available. How will funding be determined?

Answer: The purpose of this outreach survey is to gather property owner input and feedback regarding planning and development of the tree removal project. Once the information is reviewed, the FAA will determine funding availability. If the FAA approves the project, funding may involve a combination of sources. The County and the FAA will not know the financial extent of this project until a determination has been made by the FAA regarding whether an Environmental Assessment is required and until after the entire scope and effort of the project has been clearly defined and cost estimates have been created.

Question: Reports indicate that areas where trees are removed may experience increases in respiratory and heart disease. How will this concern be considered?

Answer: This concern has been noted as property owner input as part of the survey outreach process.

Question: Is tree replacement a line item in the budget? If funds for tree replacement are not available or fully funded, would that delay the project?

Answer: The project is currently in the planning stage, and funding is still to be determined.

Question: Is the project timeline expected to continue through 2045?

Answer: The tree removal project would be addressed in a much shorter timeframe. If an environmental assessment is required, a two- to five-year timeframe would be reasonable. If an environmental assessment is not required, the timeframe may be shorter.

There may be some confusion because a separate project is underway to develop the airport master plan, which looks at airport planning over the next 20 years. That effort is separate from the obstruction removal project.

Question: Is there a meeting scheduled on July 6th at the library?

Answer: Yes. However, the July 6th meeting is for the airport master plan and is separate from this survey outreach effort. Citrus County and Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering are holding a public meeting to discuss the Inverness Airport Master Plan project. The meeting will be held at Lakes Region Library from 4:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. on Monday, July 6.

The meeting will be conducted as an open house, with several stations where community members can learn about the master planning process, review conceptual designs for airport development over the next 20 years, speak with the project team, and provide feedback. The public is welcome to attend.

Question: Where will the answers be posted, and will a link be provided?

Answer: The questions and the team's responses will be posted on www.safeapproachinf.com. The link was provided during the open house, and the project team is happy to provide it again. Property owners who would like a copy of this document may contact the project team at safeapproach@ltl-team.com.

Question: July 7 is after the master plan meeting on July 6. Is it possible to receive the answers before that meeting?

Answer: The project team will make every effort to post the questions and responses as soon as possible, with posting currently planned for July 7, 2026.

Question: Will all trees at Holden Park be removed?

Answer: No. Only trees that are penetrating the protected airspace surfaces which have been identified with LIDAR, would be considered for removal. The identified obstructions are likely the red and orange trees shown on the map. The tree removal needs do not currently affect the entire park.

Question: When is the projected start date for contacting residents about tree removal?

Answer: After the survey outreach concludes and property owner feedback is assembled and shared with the FAA, the FAA will determine whether an environmental assessment is required. If the FAA determines that an environmental assessment is required, commencement of the full obstruction removal project would likely be delayed by a couple of years. If an environmental assessment is not required, the project could begin as soon as six months or whenever FAA funding becomes available.

Question: In past projects, what size replacement trees are typically used? Are very old trees replaced with small 1-inch trees, or with trees that are more established at planting?

Answer: The tree replacement method has not yet been determined. Citrus County and the Airport will develop the tree replacement element of the project with professional input and in accordance with FAA requirements for tree removal and replacement. The process will also consider tree replacement best practices used at other airports, information from the County's parks and recreation department, and input from forestry and landscaping experts.

The County intends for the tree replacement process to be collaborative with impacted property owners and is committed to preserving the natural beauty and aesthetics of affected neighborhoods while remaining in conformance with FAA requirements.

Question: Will the project affect property taxes?

Answer: Property taxes are not an element of the obstruction removal project and are generally determined by local government agencies, such as the property assessor and/or their appraiser.

Question: Will the tree removal contractor be licensed and insured? If damage occurs to my home, would I need to file a claim through my own insurance?

Answer: Airport sponsors generally hire contractors for tasks such as tree removal. Any contractor performing this work would be required to comply with applicable licensing, insurance, and bonding requirements.

Question: As the airport grows, what will be done about jet noise?

Answer: Across the aviation industry, aircraft manufacturers continue working to improve sustainability and reduce aircraft noise. Inverness Airport is not a commercial airport, and the runway is not expected to increase to a length required for larger jets.

Question: Will phone poles and other tall objects be fitted with reflectors or other markings to reduce visibility concerns during landing?

Answer: This item remains to be determined.

Question: When will the project start, and are any homes affected? I received a letter from a realtor stating that they have an interested buyer. Is the buyer the Airport?

Answer: No. There are no plans to purchase homes as part of the obstruction removal project. We do not currently have a projected start date.

Question: I see power lines marked in red in front of my home. Will the power lines be moved?

Answer: It is highly unlikely that the power lines will be moved. Placing power lines underground is extremely expensive and would likely be the only option for moving them. These details will be evaluated later as the project moves forward.