



St. Stephen (Giddens Memorial) Airport Master Plan
M.D. of St. Stephen Council | April 22, 2026



Overview

- Future direction for the airport required under the 2025 Municipal Plan
- Current position:
 - Limited investment for multiple decades; infrastructure nearing or beyond end of useful service life
 - Positive but modest social and economic value
- Master Plan goals:
 - Evaluate regional value
 - Identify realistic role and opportunities
 - Set out a phased path forward
- Decision point: Commit to the long-term future of the airport, or adopt an alternate model
 - Status quo is not a viable scenario due to safety-related implications of future asset degradation



Current Role & Potential

- Current role:
 - Private aviation, aviation-based tourism, visitor access, and public health and safety
 - Limited activity = modest but positive economic and social value
- Expanding activity, economic impacts, and social value
 - Economic productivity – growth in visitor access
 - Public health and safety – meeting growing rotary-wing requirements for border sovereignty, wildfire response, and search and rescue
- Critical questions:
 - Is the future potential of the airport aligned with regional priorities and values?
 - What are the investments required to attain these opportunities?



Responding to the Region

- 67% of all survey respondents say the airport is important or very important
 - Support strongest from businesses, economic stakeholders, and aviation users
 - Resident perspectives are mixed but generally favourable
- Two-part focus: the airport as an economic enabler, but also an asset for public health and safety
- Main questions:
 - Costs of sustaining the airport and how they will be funded
 - Limited awareness of benefits
 - Need for clearer long-term plan



A vision for the future:

To collaboratively develop and sustain St. Stephen Airport as a regional asset to Southwest New Brunswick that supports public health and safety, welcomes visitors to the area, and contributes to economic vitality.

From Vision to Implementation

- Airport capital infrastructure
 - Short-term (1-5 year) focus on strategic investments to 1) unlock economic and social value; 2) develop alignment with governmental mandates; and 3) generate revenues (\$1.4 million)
 - Medium-term (6-10 year) focus on the recapitalization of the airport's core airfield assets that have reached or exceeded their useful service lives (\$11.1 million) + potential investment in the runway infrastructure if warranted (\$1.5 million)
- Aligning regional participation with value received from the airport and establishing a path forward for ownership, governance, and funding
- Targeting provincial, federal, and private-sector partnerships





Thank You & Questions



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