



MEMORANDUM

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Berks County Planning Commission
Berks County Services Center
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Reading, PA 19601-4309

TO: Berks County Planning Commission

FROM: Devon B. Hain, Transportation Planner II

RE: DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund Application – Coral Aviation/Quest Facility Project – Bern Township

DATE: July 29, 2022

The Berks County Planning Commission is in receipt of the Coral Aviation application for the Coral Aviation/Quest Facility Project under the Department of Community and Economic Development's (DCED) Multimodal Transportation Fund Program.

Project Description:

The proposed project consists of building a 50,000 square foot, state of the art hangar with 20,000 square feet of office and support facilities. A full motion Pilatus simulator training center will also be built, which will be open to the public and companies seeking their FAA required pilot training. Another addition at the Reading Regional Airport (RRA) through this proposed project will be a state of the art, self-serve capable fuel farm consisting of two 12,000 gallon jet tanks and one 10,000 avgas tank. Multiple mobile refuelers will be purchased to support fuel sales that will also be open to the public. Coral Aviation Group is requesting a \$3 million grant in support of these improvements.

Project Findings:

The proposed facilities will allow Coral Aviation to operate more efficiently and better support their growing business, offer full maintenance and avionics services to the public, attract aircraft, pilots, and owners to the area bringing a positive economic impact. It will also allow Coral Aviation to grow at Reading Regional Airport with net new employees to the municipality and county, providing quality employment opportunities for Berks County residents consisting of a minimum of 25 new full-time jobs at a pay exceeding median county earnings.

Currently the closest Pilatus training facilities are located in Florida and Texas. Owners and pilots throughout the northeast will be attracted to this proposed training facility with training taking place up to five days.

Coral Aviation currently flies 34 routes per night utilizing 10 specimen aircraft for Quest from Reading Regional Airport. This results in approximately 66,000 specimens flying per night. A Quest patient service center is being seriously considered to be collocated at the proposed facility. This would also include a Rapid Response Lab. The Rapid Response Lab would streamline the logistics of blood specimens as it would allow specimens to be offloaded directly from the aircraft to the lab. The specimens are currently offloaded and then transported to Quest labs in Collegeville. The potential addition of this Rapid Response Lab would bring additional high paying, high skilled jobs to the area.

The project is located in an area of Existing Development in Bern Township as identified by the Berks County Comprehensive Plan 2030 Update. As such, this proposal is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Berks County Comprehensive Plan.

Additionally, the Plan's Transportation Goal is to "provide and maintain a balanced, multimodal transportation system that will safely and efficiently move people and goods."

Recommendations:

The Multimodal Transportation Fund application process requires applicants to provide a letter from the appropriate planning agency certifying that the proposed project is in compliance with the comprehensive land use plans.

Staff recommends the Board provide a letter of compliance for the Coral Aviation/Quest Facility Project.