



SMALL TOWN, BIG BEACH

## Mayor's Statement

Re: Request for Qualifications (RFQ) - Commercial Air Terminal Project

The Community of Gulf Shores is about to embark on an exciting airport development program, which is envisioned to create many opportunities for our residents and make significant contributions to the economic prosperity of the local community.

The Gulf Shores Airport Authority, the operator of the Gulf Shores International Airport at Jack Edwards Field, is about to publish a Request for Qualifications for the development of a passenger terminal facility on the airport's south side. The City is supportive of this process which will identify the most qualified firm to fund, construct, and manage the terminal building, and potentially assist with bringing other developments to the airport.

To date, several airlines have expressed an interest in providing passenger service to our airport, delivering written letters of intent, and infrastructure investments over the last several years have supported this important opportunity. The recent opening of the airport's Air Traffic Control Tower provides the reliability sought by commercial airlines, and also plays a critical role in advancing the safety of operations at our airport. The City has also completed projects to enable the new terminal, including improvements to the Business and Aviation Park and Commerce Drive, and has commenced projects to improve roadway access to the airport.

The Federal Aviation Administration actively supports airports creating economic growth within its boundaries, but also seeks to have airports be self-sustaining without relying on City or taxpayer dollars to fund operations. The planned approach to the terminal development and the initiation of commercial service will greatly contribute to these objectives. We thank the FAA for their continued support of our airport.

The development is anticipated to occur in two phases. Subject to obtaining required permits and approvals, the first phase will be an interim terminal facility to support the initial passenger air service anticipated to commence in 2022. Planning will also commence immediately on a second phase, which will provide for the construction of a new passenger terminal that will open further opportunities to travel for both our residents and visitors.

So please join me in supporting the further development of the Gulf Shores International Airport.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Craft".

Robert Craft, Mayor

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