

CHAPTER 1 Introduction

The **Block Island Airport (BID)** (Figure 1-1) serves as one of the primary gateways to Block Island, a 10-square-mile island located 14 miles off the Rhode Island mainland. While serving a year-round Island population, its use is highly seasonal, with the overwhelming majority of both passengers and operations occurring in the four months of June, July, August and September. In the peaks of the summer season, the present capacity of the airport is severely strained, particularly in the area of transient aircraft parking.

This report presents the data and findings of Phases I and II of the master plan effort at BID. Phase I activities included establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC); development of a digital base plan developed from aerial photogrammetry; documentation of the existing physical conditions including the airport's rare and sensitive flora and fauna; compilation of forecasts of enplanements and operations; and identification, with the assistance of the Technical Advisory Committee, of key future needs at BID.

Phase II efforts addressed the identified needs and analyzed future development alternatives and scenarios for accommodating future air travel demand and operations through BID. A Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) identifies specific improvement projects and an approximate timeframe for their implementation. Finally, a set of graphics collectively referred to as the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) depicts the airport both in its existing and proposed future configurations.

This master plan report consists of nine chapters and several technical appendices. **Chapter 1** is a simple introduction to the BID master plan effort and the master plan document. **Chapter 2** inventories existing facilities and notes their conditions. **Chapter 3** contains forecasts of future activity at the airport. **Chapter 4** presents a synopsis of issues identified in Phase I and identifies specific facility requirements. **Chapters 5** and **6** present the various runway and taxiway alternatives, respectively, examined and considered in the master plan.

An overview of environmental conditions and an indication of potential impacts are provided in **Chapter 7**. A development program and implementation plan are presented in **Chapter 8**, and **Chapter 9** contains 11-inch-by-17-inch graphics of the BID Airport Layout Plan.

Accompanying technical appendices provide additional detail in several areas.

RIAC

Two separately-bound documents complete the Block Island Airport Master Plan. The first, entitled *Historical Plans/Drawings Inventory* and dated August 2004, is a compendium of plans and drawings contained in RIAC files of prior construction projects at the airport for the period 1949-mid 1990's. The second, dated May 2004, is entitled *BID Photo Inventory* and is an extensive photographic database of the BID airside and landside as of May 2004. Digital copies of the printed materials accompany both documents.



**Airport
Master
Plan**

Figure 1-1 Block Island Airport (BID)

Source: Figure 640-02(164) from a draft of the Rhode Island Aviation System Plan Update (ASPU), Wilbur Smith Associates and Edwards and Kelcey, 2003