Airport Improvements Cited in Bond Proposals

(Bond issues totaling $20,000,000 to finance the major part of the bond proposals for growth of the city will come before the voters in November. The principal series in this and subsequent issues of the St. Petersburg Times is of airport improvements contemplated under the proposals.)

By W. L. REDUS

Men and commerce will ride the postwar skies in vastly expanded form, and a great stream of air traffic will be headed to the cities that have facilities to handle it.

That is the reason Fort Worth is including in its 10-year plan a $2,770,000 program for airport improvements and a $4,500,000 bond issue to authorize $2,500,000 of the amount when they vote Oct. 2 on the bond issue. The present city's postwar public works program.

The remaining $2,500,000 will be for future expansion when the work of constructing new landing strips and similar facilities is in progress.

Fort Worth's planning for future airport needs is prompted by the fact that the airport's present capacity, as it stands now, is much lower than its potential.

The blueprint of airport development for Fort Worth calls for the construction of Municipal Airport to handle the growing air traffic, and acquiring and expanding facilities for the major field to meet needs of the future.

More Air Traffic

Plans for the proposed new airport and the proposed expansion of the Municipal Airport to meet the demands of air transportation in the next few years. Passengers and cargo traffic will require more facilities for landing and taking off increased plane activity will increase. Larger planes will require longer runways, and their greater number will demand more facilities for landing and taking off. Increased plane activity will increase.

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Studies by the Civil Aeronautics Administration and the airlines indicate at least a four-fold increase in air traffic at the Municipal Airport in the next 10 years.

Conceivable estimates are that 400,000 passengers will travel in and out of Fort Worth by air each year by 1950, and that the number of plane movements will leap to 1,000,000. Plane arrivals and departures will be six a minute.

1950 will bring a peak of 40 plane movements per hour. This expect the number of movements to the airport's annual traffic will grow from 20,000 to 60,000 per year.

The new airport will be located on the former Fort Worth Air Force Base in the north. The maximum which would be achieved with the strip.

The Municipal Airport's runway is 2,400 feet long, and the maximum to which these strips can be extended will be 5,000 feet.

Hence the plan for a new airport site of 2,400 acres, capable of handling passenger and freight traffic, and of the Municipal Airport in the next 10 years.

Fire Station Required

A new northeast-southwest runway of 6,000 feet for the new airport; two new hangars, 300 by 200 feet, and a new building for a fire station.

The proposed new airport will have four runways and three parallel runways.

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PROPOSED AIRPORT. Sky giants of the future—some of them not far distant—would be accommodated by this new major airport which the city proposes to build to handle postwar air traffic. Runways would be long enough to allow for takeoffs and landings of heavy commercial airplanes.