

FORT WORTH
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

TELEPHONE 3-2491

114 EAST EIGHTH STREET

August 12, 1943

Copy For Mr. Carter

Honorable C. I. Stanton, Administrator
Civil Aeronautics Administration
Department of Commerce
Washington, D. C.

Re: ARLINGTON AIRPORT

Dear Mr. Stanton:

Your letter of August 7 received. I note your statement that in consideration of the conflicting views of the cities of Fort Worth and Dallas, and in order to minimize changes in construction work already completed, you have formulated a tentative new building location plan. The copy of the plan which you enclosed places the administration building just west of the northwest corner of the airport. In answer to your request for our consideration and comments thereon, I desire to advise that representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the City Manager conferred today and reached the following conclusion:

While the proposed location shown on the tentative plan is not what we had originally hoped for, namely an exact midway location of the administration building, still we recognize that it is a compromise trying to reconcile conflicting opinions, and if in your judgment this is better than the location proposed at the midway point of the west side of the field, then it is acceptable to us.

Thanking you for your consideration in this matter, I am

Yours sincerely,

William Holden
Executive Vice President

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Civil Aeronautics Administration
Washington

August 7, 1943

Mr. William Holden
Chairman
Aviation Committee
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Sir:

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At the conclusion of the informal hearing we held in Washington, March 22 last, it was decided that no additional construction work on the Arlington Municipal Airport would be authorized until the various parties at interest could agree on some suitable plan for the layout of the terminal and other buildings. Owing to the fact that the airport development was undertaken at this location in the expectation that it would be used extensively by the air carriers serving Dallas and Fort Worth, we must consider that these cities and carriers are parties at interest in addition to the City of Arlington, the sponsor.

We had not expected that any further landing area construction would be considered before the conclusion of the war, and that construction of airport buildings would be out of the question because of the shortage of many kinds of materials needed for structures suitable for an airport such as this. However, we have recently been requested by one of the armed services to expand the landing facilities for war use, therefore, the reaching of an agreement on the future development plans becomes necessary much earlier than had been anticipated.

The principal objection on the part of Dallas representatives was that the proposed location of the administration building midway on the west boundary of the airport would necessitate travel by Dallas passengers past the north or south sides, around the northwest or southwest corners, and up or down half the west side, amounting in all to at least a mile of superfluous travel for each one-way trip. Fort Worth representatives objected to the original intended location of the main building midway on the north side because that would be a mile further from the Texas Hotel in Fort Worth than from the Baker Hotel in Dallas. They seemed to feel that the only way to equalize mileage and potential civic benefit to the communities was by a building location requiring Dallas passengers to use up some extra mileage traveling around the borders of the airport.

Some evidence has been given that the geography of the site and the weather conditions of the vicinity indicate desirability of a westerly building location.

Consideration of these conflicting views has led to the formulation of a tentative new building location plan intended to overcome some part of the features found objectionable to Dallas; preserve some of the features found desirable by Fort Worth, Arlington, and air carrier operators; and minimize any changes in the construction work already accomplished.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would give this plan your consideration and send us your comments thereon as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

/s/ C. I. Stanton, Administrator