

# **Easton Airport UPDATE!**

## **The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly**

Quite a few things have happened since we put out our first flyer about the expansion plans for the Easton airport.

### **The Good**

First, thanks to all the people who have responded in such a positive way to our message. And even more thanks to those who have truly “stepped up” and are taking action. These good people are putting a lot of effort towards getting the word out, and getting real answers to the many unanswered questions about what the county really has in mind for this publicly owned property. And, the number of these well meaning, motivated residents is growing every day. They are becoming a positive force for the benefit of a community that needs to put the interests of greed and arrogance in check.

Second, the county appears to have backed off its aggressive moves towards breaking the protective easement on the neighboring farm property (Fletcher sister’s farm). This may be a lost battle for the county, but it does NOT mean that they have lost the war. They may still be trying to get help from the Federal government, who COULD easily break the easement under eminent domain powers and condemn the property for airport use. And we understand that negotiations for the purchase of alternative farm properties are under way. So that war is NOT yet over.

### **The Bad**

First, since our initial flyer went out, the county, along with the airport management, has stepped up their efforts to “sell” their expansion plans, and continues to provide conflicting information, miss-statements, and “errors of omission”. The airport management has even resorted to giving presentations in private homes, selling itself to less than a handful of people at a time.

Second, we have been contacted by a few individuals who want to “shoot the messenger”. We have been accused of using “scare tactics” and spreading wrong information. The fact is, in this case, REALITY CAN BE A SCARY THING! If some view our message as alarming, it’s because that’s what we’re trying to do, send an alarm. What’s truly scary is, these same people seem quite uninformed on the real issues, yet seem convinced they have the answers, answers that seem to come from the county of course. No surprise then, that these criticisms have come from an ex-pilot, and another who rents a hangar at the airport. We DO WELCOME criticism though. We KNOW we don’t have all the answers about what’s going on. But we’re asking.

## **The Ugly**

The county has been running Easton Airport as if it is their own minor empire, with very little input from the residents of Talbot County, who actually own it. The runway extension plans are a constant source of confusion and conflicting details. The new control tower was built very quickly, with no genuine public notice, and cost millions of dollars. An over-all plan seems to be a well guarded secret. The county seems to be taking a “do it now and ask forgiveness later” approach to building up the airport and ruining everything else around it. So we ask again: What’s going on?

The residents have a right to demand information from the elected officials of this county (and the City of Easton as well). A Master Plan for the airport must certainly exist, and that plan must be shared with those who live and work here. Many of us have asked for a copy of the plan, but not one of us has succeeded in actually getting one. Why would anyone want to keep such information away from public scrutiny? The answer is obvious. It’s time the county spoke openly and honestly about the plans it has. Plans that are not buried in doublespeak or technical jargon. These plans should be easily presented, easily understood, and easily available. Plans that can be turned away if they are destructive to the quality of life of county residents. If they can’t do this, maybe it’s time for the county to get out of the airport business entirely.

We are now looking for donations to cover the cost of a mass mailer, attorney, and other things we need.

These federal tax deductible donations can be written to:

Talbot River Protection Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2234, Easton, Maryland 21601  
*Please note **L.E.A.D.** on checks.*

**Take the L.E.A.D.!**  
**Limit Excessive Airport Development**  
**limitairportgrowth@gmail.com**