The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority’s (TCAA) proposal to operate a commercial space launch site at the Space Coast Regional Airport (TIX) in the northern half of Brevard County, Florida. Information on the proposed project, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and the Draft EA is available on the following website:
https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ast/environmental/nepa_docs/review/documents_progress/space_coast/

Tonight’s public meeting is being held to provide information about the project and the FAA environmental review process, and to solicit input from the public on the Draft EA. To ensure consideration of your comments in the development of the Final EA, comments must be received by **January 17, 2020**.

### Who is here?

**Lead Federal Agency**
The FAA is the lead federal agency. The FAA licenses and regulates U.S. commercial space launch and reentry activities, as well as the operation of non-federal launch and reentry sites, as authorized by the Commercial Space Launch Act of 2011.

**Applicant**
The TCAA is the applicant. TIX is owned by TCAA. The TCAA was established in 1963 as a special taxing district created by the cities of Titusville and Cocoa in Brevard County, FL, and is responsible for three facilities serving aviation needs on Florida’s Space Coast.

**Proposed Action**
TCAA proposes to operate a commercial space launch site at TIX, in Brevard County, Florida. TCAA would offer the site to one or more commercial launch operators for the operation of horizontal take-off and landing reusable launch vehicles (RLVs). To operate a commercial space launch site, TCAA must obtain a Launch Site Operator License from the FAA. Under the Proposed Action addressed in this EA, the FAA would:

- Issue a Launch Site Operator License to TCAA for the operation of a commercial space launch site at TIX and
- Unconditionally approve the updated Airport Layout Plan (ALP) that shows the designation of the launch site boundary and existing and planned launch site infrastructure.

The FAA issues separate experimental permits and/or licenses for operation of launch vehicles. Therefore, potential launch operators would need to obtain individual experimental permits and/or launch licenses from the FAA before launching from TIX.

### What is the Purpose of this Public Meeting?
The purpose of this public meeting is to inform you about the proposed project, provide information about the environmental review process, and solicit your comments on the environmental analysis in the Draft EA.
Why did the FAA Prepare a Draft EA?

NEPA requires federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of any proposed major federal action and to inform and involve the public in the decision-making process. For this project, the FAA has prepared a Draft EA, which describes:

- Why the action is being proposed (Purpose and Need)
- What is the action (Proposed Action)
- Other alternatives, including the No Action Alternative and alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed study
- A description of the existing conditions at the proposed site
- An evaluation of the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative

The successful completion of the environmental review process does not guarantee that the FAA will issue a Launch Site Operator License to TCAA. No decision can be made, or license issued, until the application review process is complete, which includes a requirement to complete the environmental review process and meet the FAA’s safety requirements. Informed decisions are based on a candid and factual presentation of environmental impacts. These facts come from collecting information on the areas and resources affected by the proposal, and then identifying the type and extent of potential impacts resulting from the proposal.

For this project, the FAA has considered the following resource areas:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources (including Fish, Wildlife, and Plants)
- Climate
- Coastal Resources
- Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f)
- Farmlands
- Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste, and Pollution Prevention
- Historical, Architectural, Archaeological, and Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Natural Resources and Energy Supply
- Noise and Compatible Land Use
- Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, and Children’s Environmental Health and Safety Risks
- Visual Effects (including Light Emissions)
- Water Resources (including Wetlands, Floodplains, Surface Waters, Groundwater, and Wild and Scenic Rivers)

NEPA Process: Where we are, What’s next

As you can see above, the NEPA process to publish a final EA has multiple steps. Currently, we are in the **Comment Period for the Draft EA.** At this stage, it is important that all interested parties share their comments, questions, and concerns so that they can be considered for the final EA. As described above, you can share written or oral comments during tonight’s meeting. You can also email comments or send them through post. All comments will be given equal consideration. It is important and helpful to the NEPA process to provide comments and feedback.

Next, after the Comment Period is over, we will accept and evaluate the comments. Comments will be responded to and incorporated into the final EA. Then, the final EA will be published and made available to the public. After the final EA is published a few different things may happen, such as an issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact, a Record of Decision, or a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. None of these outcomes is guaranteed and successful completion of the environmental review process does not guarantee that the FAA would issue licenses to any site or launch operator.