

Notice of Availability/Notice of Opportunity for a Public Meeting
Draft Environmental Assessment
Proposed Tree Obstruction Clearing
Memphis Shelby County Airport Authority

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is reviewing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed removal of tree obstructions to the approach surfaces of Memphis International Airport (MEM) runways 36L, 36C, and 36R, and the departure surfaces of runways 18R, 18C, and 18L. The project is proposed to comply with the FAA Airport Improvement Program Grant Assurance 20 (Hazard Removal and Mitigation) and FAA Code of Federal Regulations Chapter 14 Part 139. The area proposed for tree obstruction clearing is located south of MEM Runways 36L, 36C, and 36R and East Shelby Drive, east of Airways Boulevard, and north of East Holmes Road. The project is proposed in two phases over four years. Phase I of the proposed project includes the removal of trees within approximately 289 acres of upland wooded area, incrementally, in 30-acre sections. Phase II of the proposed project includes the cutting or topping of trees within approximately 55 acres of forested wetlands area. To serve as erosion and sediment controls, a natural riparian buffer zone of 60 feet (ft) is proposed for streams, where trees would be selectively topped. A 30-ft buffer zone is proposed around onsite wetlands where trees are proposed to be cut; however, stumps and tree roots would not be disturbed. Cut trees are proposed for reuse as harvested timber; however, if cut trees be unable to be reused as timber, they would be burned onsite using smoke minimizing burn processes approved by the Shelby County Health Department. The purpose of the Draft EA is to address how the project would potentially impact economic, social, and environmental resources. The Draft EA can be reviewed by accessing the MSCAA website, www.FlyMemphis.com. Click the "About MEM" tab then navigate to the "Environment" page. An electronic version of the document is also available upon request through the MSCAA contact listed below. Members of the public may issue comments on the Draft EA within **30** days of this notice or request a public meeting within **15** days of this notice. Comments or requests for an electronic copy of the Draft EA or public meeting should be addressed to James Hay, MEM Director of Development by phone at (901) 922-8224 or by email at jhay@flymemphis.com or Aaron Braswell, FAA Environmental Protection Specialist by phone at (901) 322-8192 or by email at aaron.braswell@faa.gov.