

or less.¹⁰ However, none of these airports provide sufficient runway length and navigational facilities to handle air carrier operations. All would require substantial improvement in order to accommodate air carrier operations. Thus, they are not viable options to meet the identified purposes and needs for the proposed replacement airport. Although the City of Mesquite, Nevada plans to build a replacement Mesquite Airport in the near future, it is proposed to serve GA users only; not air carrier operations.¹¹

Table 4.2
PUBLIC USE AIRPORTS WITHIN A 30 NAUTICAL-MILE RADIUS OF
ST. GEORGE

AIRPORT	DISTANCE FROM ST. GEORGE (IN NAUTICAL MILES)	RUNWAY LENGTH(S) (IN FEET)	RUNWAY APPROACH FACILITIES	CAPABLE OF AIR CARRIER SERVICE?
Colorado City Municipal Airport, AZ (AZC)	29 NM	02/20: 5,099' 11/29: 6,300'	NDB & Visual approach	No
Hurricane Airport, UT (1L8)	14 NM	18/36: 3,410'	Visual only	No
Mesquite Airport, NV (67L)	27 NM	01/19: 5,100'	Visual only	No

Source: On-line search at www.airnav.com for airports' information. Retrieved March 16, 2004.

Table 4.3 identifies six other existing air carrier airports located closest to St. George along with their corresponding travel times from St. George.

Table 4.3
DRIVING TIME BETWEEN ST. GEORGE AND NEAREST AIR CARRIER AIRPORTS

AIRPORT	DRIVING TIME FROM ST. GEORGE
Cedar City Regional Airport, Cedar City, UT (CDC)	1 hour
Las Vegas McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas, NV (LAS)	2 hours
Kingman Airport, Kingman, AZ	4 hours
Salt Lake City International Airport, Salt Lake City, UT (SLC)	5 hours
Flagstaff Pulliam Airport, Flagstaff, AZ	5 hours
Ernest A. Love Field Airport, Prescott, AZ	6 hours

Source: On-line search at www.mapblast.com for driving times from St. George, Utah. Retrieved March 16, 2004.

¹⁰ This distance was chosen as the limit for this part of the analysis because the nearest air carrier airport is one hour from St. George. Any general aviation airports at distances of one hour or more from St. George would clearly be inferior alternatives to airports already served by air carriers.

¹¹ *Supplement to Section III of Master Plan for Replacement General Aviation Airport in Mesquite, Nevada.* Prepared by the City of Mesquite, NV. February 2004.

Of the airports listed in **Table 4.2**, only two, Cedar City Regional and Las Vegas McCarran International, are in reasonable proximity to St. George and are of sufficient size to accommodate air carrier operations. These two airports are discussed in detail below.

Cedar City Regional Airport (CDC)

Cedar City Regional Airport (CDC) is the closest air carrier airport to St. George. Runway 2/20 is 8,653 feet long and has an instrument landing system on Runway 20. CDC completed a Master Plan¹² in 2000 that includes a number of anticipated capital improvements over the next 20 years including the rehabilitation/upgrading of airfield lighting, the construction of a new passenger terminal (completed) and commercial apron (currently underway), the acquisition of land for an extension to Runway 2/20, construction of hangar taxi-lanes, the extension of Runway 2/20 to 10,000 feet, the acquisition of ARFF equipment, the strengthening of Runway 2/20 and parallel taxiway, the construction of a new Runway 8/26 north of existing runway and conversion of the existing runway into a full length taxiway, and periodic airfield pavement maintenance. These projects are subject to their own local and environmental approval processes and are not the subject of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Although CDC is currently served by SkyWest Airlines (operating as Delta Connection), it is not an attractive option for travelers in the St. George area because driving distance to get to CDC (approximately one hour) and the fact that the number of daily flights and destinations served is less than what is currently offered at St. George. During the winter months, three scheduled flights are available Monday through Friday between CDC and Salt Lake City and two on both Saturday and Sunday. In comparison, St. George offers seven daily flights to Salt Lake City (through Delta Connection) and two daily flights to Los Angeles (through United Express).¹³ SkyWest Airlines is responding to this market preference by providing more flights from St. George rather than Cedar City.

Additionally, even if CDC were upgraded as proposed in their 2000 Master Plan, SGU would still remain in operation and it is anticipated that carriers using SGU today would continue to operate from SGU in the future because of the demand for commercial aviation activity at St. George.

Las Vegas McCarran International Airport (LAS)

Las Vegas McCarran International Airport (LAS) is the second closest air carrier airport to St. George, as shown in **Table 4.3**. LAS offers the advantages of relatively low fares and non-stop flights to many destinations; however it's major disadvantage is that it is an approximate two hour drive from St. George. For travelers willing to spend the extra time and cost of driving, parking, ticketing, bag check, and security lines at a major international airport, LAS is an attractive

¹² *Cedar City Regional Airport Master Plan, Final Draft*. Prepared by Armstrong Consultants, Inc. June 30, 2003.

¹³ Delta Airlines, on-line search of Flight Schedules from St. George and from Cedar City, at <http://www.delta.com/>. Retrieved March 2006. United Airlines, on-line search of Timetables from St. George, at <http://www.united.com/>. Retrieved March 2006.