



News Release

For Immediate Release

Jan. 12, 2017

The City of Williston leaders met with Governor Doug Burgum recently in Bismarck. The meeting was held to discuss the governor's Main Street Initiative and how it could enhance Williston Sloulin Field Redevelopment project.

"If you are not familiar with the governor's program; it centers on mixed use, minimal infrastructure, lower tax payer investment and living space for all ages in a community," said Williston Mayor Howard Klug.

The Sloulin Field Redevelopment will be located at the current Williston Airport site. Once the new Williston Basin International Airport is opened in October of 2019; the current airport will be closed forever. The City of Williston has been working on a master plan for the site that would feature new amenities to complement existing businesses plus a walkable and drivable corridor to connect the redevelopment to Downtown Williston.

One of the Klug's highest priorities is to build a new convention center.

"I truly believe that Williston needs a civic center. In order to be competitive in attracting conventions, seminars and business interests, we need a gathering space that fits our needs," said Klug.

In addition to the civic center, the proposed master plan calls for repurposing some of the airport's current buildings to an interpretive center or museum and space for entrepreneurs to launch their businesses and ideas.

Klug said in order to make the project viable, the City of Williston will need key partnerships.

“To accomplish this goal, the city will have to embrace the governor’s plan and I believe that it is the right path to follow. We also need to continue to work with our development partners to bring in capital funds to start and finish the first phase of the redevelopment. This redevelopment will require commitment from the City of Williston. That commitment will require dollars, time, input from the community and expert advice from our partners and city staff,” said Klug.

The City of Williston is preparing to release its Sloulin Field Redevelopment Master Plan to the public during a meeting in March or April.

“October of 2019 is approaching rapidly and we will be ready to decommission and redevelop Sloulin Field International Airport,” emphasized Klug.