
Chapter 13: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

With the proposed project there are a number of resources, both natural and man-made, that would be expended in the construction and operation of the enlargement of the proposed parking facility. These resources would include the materials used in construction; energy in the form of gas and electricity consumed during construction and operation of the proposed project; and the human effort (i.e., time and labor) required to develop, construct, and operate various components of the proposed project.

These resources are considered irretrievably committed because their reuse for some purpose other than the proposed project would be highly unlikely. The proposed parking facility would constitute an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the project site as a land resource, thereby rendering land use for other purposes infeasible, at least in the near term. The site is currently used as a parking facility and the proposed actions would expand upon that existing use by increasing parking capacity at the site. These commitments of materials and land are weighed against the benefits of the proposed actions, which would facilitate commercial development on underutilized land within an existing concentration of retail uses.

As described under, "Project Purpose and Need," in Chapter 1, "Project Description," LaGuardia Airport's need for additional parking is critical and growing. In addition to meeting parking demand, another goal of the project is to remove some of the traffic generated by taxis and black cars by facilitating the use of long-term parking. The proposed actions would facilitate development that would supplement LaGuardia's capacity by 1,775 long-term parking spaces and address the loss of long-term parking spaces on-airport that will result from planned construction at LaGuardia Airport.