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John R. Cooper  
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

December 20, 2021

The Honorable Randy Garrison  
Mayor, City of Hartselle  
200 Sparkman Street, SW.  
Hartselle, Alabama 35640

**Subject: Annual Inspection Report**  
**Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (3M0)**

Dear Mayor Garrison:

An inspection of the Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport was conducted by personnel of the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on December 8, 2021. The purpose of the inspection was to update the information currently on file regarding the airport and to ascertain compliance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Department of Transportation governing licensed public-use airports within the State of Alabama.

Attached you will find a copy of the Annual Inspection Report for Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport. As noted in the report, the airport **does not meet** the requirements for the issuance of an operating license. There are obstructions that violate the Required 20:1 Approach and Departure Paths to both runway ends. Additionally, there are ruts within the Runway Safety Area and discrepancies with the fueling area that are potentially dangerous. The license is being **suspended** pending the completion of the required maintenance detailed in this report. When the corrections have been made, please contact this office to schedule a re-inspection. It should be noted that some of these discrepancies have been mentioned in previous inspection reports and have not been fully resolved.

If you should have any questions concerning the inspection or corrective actions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Gus Slaten with the Aeronautics Bureau at (334) 242-6820.

Sincerely,

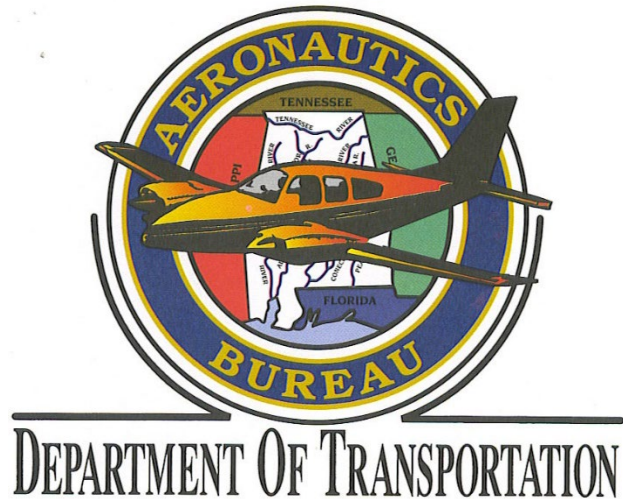
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Farmer', with a stylized, cursive script.

Frank Farmer  
Chief, Aeronautics Bureau

Copy: Mr. Stoney Powell, Airport Manager  
Mr. Jeff Johnson, City of Hartselle  
Ms. Courtney Tomberlin, Garver  
Mr. Rans Black, FAA/ADO  
Mr. Kevin Morgan, FAA/ADO

# ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT

December 8, 2021



***Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0)  
Hartselle, Alabama***

**Annual Inspection Report  
Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0)  
Hartselle, Alabama**

December 8, 2021

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# Annual Inspection Report Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0) Hartselle, Alabama

December 8, 2021

## **Introduction:**

**Code of Alabama 23-1-357(c).** The department may perform such acts, issue and amend such orders and make, promulgate, or amend general or special rules, regulations, and procedures and establish minimum standards, consistent with the provisions of this article as it shall deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this article and to perform its duties hereunder, all commensurate with and for the purpose of protecting and insuring the general public interest, health, welfare, and safety. (Act 2000-220, 10.)

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Alabama 23-1-357(c) an inspection of the Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport was conducted by Mr. Gus Slaten of the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on December 8, 2021.

The corrective actions that may be prescribed in this inspection report do not relieve the airport owner from compliance with any other Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations that may be applicable. It is the responsibility of the airport owner to be aware of and obey all Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations that may have a bearing on the corrective actions that may be specified in this report.

## **Inspection Methodology:**

The inspection of the required State Approach/Departure Path and Federal Runway Protection Zones was accomplished by the use of approved engineering methods and equipment. The angles, locations and heights of trees or other objects within these areas were derived by the use of a theodolite and electronic distance measuring device.

All other areas of the inspection were conducted visually and photographed for reference purposes.

The FAA Airport Design Standards referred to in this report were taken from the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in August 2013.

# Annual Inspection Report Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0) Hartselle, Alabama

December 8, 2021

## **License Status:**

**Code of Alabama 23-1-375(a).** ...a person or municipality may not operate an airport, restricted landing area, or other air navigation facility without a license issued by the department.

Based upon the findings of the inspection conducted on December 8, 2021 it was determined that the airport ***does not meet*** the requirements for the issuance of an operating license. The license is being ***suspended*** pending completion of the required actions detailed in this report. The Code of Alabama 23-1-375 prohibits the operation of an airport for which a license has not been issued.

*The inspection was conducted on the airport under the provisions of the Administrative Code for the following areas:*

### **1. Approach and Departure Paths Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(1) (See Appendix 1)**

#### **State Licensing Standards:**

- For all hard surface runways, the approach and departure path begins 200 feet from the runway end (runway threshold). For runways with displaced thresholds, the approach and departure path begins at the displaced threshold.
- For all hard surface runways with a displaced threshold, the approach and departure path begins at the point of displacement (See Appendix 2).
- The approach and departure path for all runways slopes up at a ratio of 20:1.
- All penetrations of the approach and departure paths, whether natural or manmade, constitute an obstruction to navigation and must be removed.
- The land beneath the approach and departure path must be controlled by the airport owner. This is accomplished by ownership of the property in fee simple or by written perpetual agreement with the owner of the land.

#### **Inspection Results: *VIOLATION***

- Runway 18 – Trees identified as #1, #2, #3, #4, #6, and #9 violate the Required ALDOT 20:1 Approach/Departure Path (See Photo #1 and Appendix 2).
- Runway 36 – Trees identified as #5, #7, and #8 violate the Required ALDOT 20:1 Approach/Departure Path (See Photo #2 and Appendix 3).

# Annual Inspection Report Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0) Hartselle, Alabama

December 8, 2021

Photo #1 – Runway 18 Approach

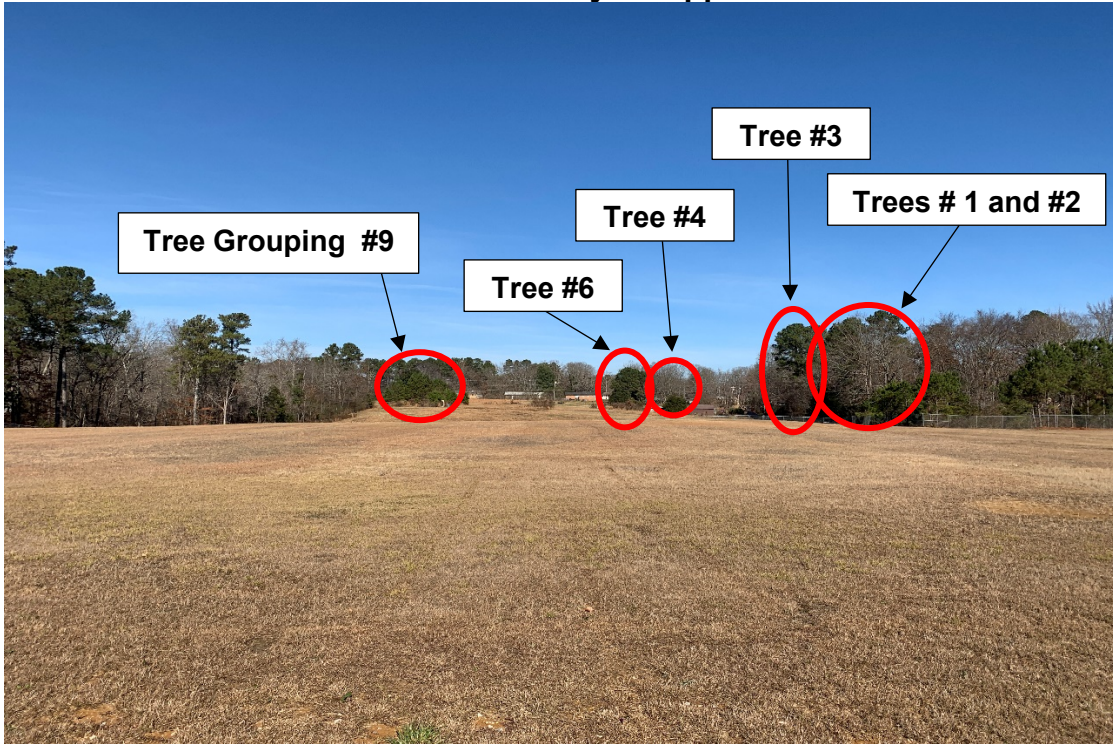
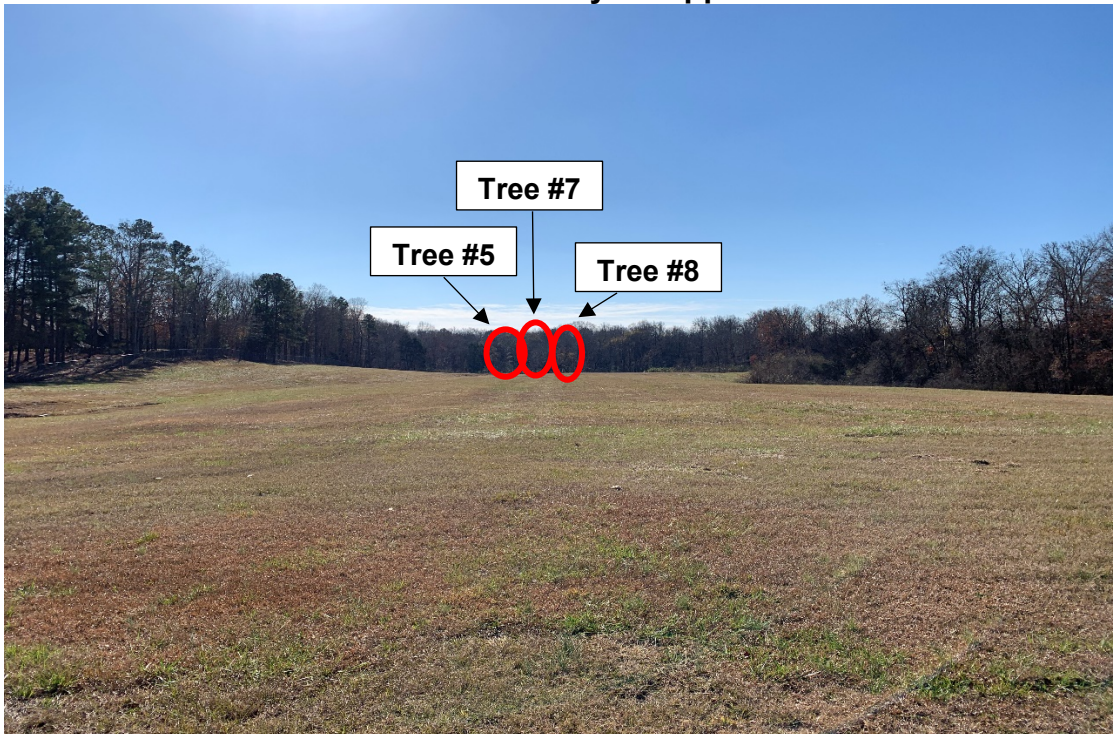


Photo #2 – Runway 36 Approach



# Annual Inspection Report Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0) Hartselle, Alabama

December 8, 2021

## **Required Action:**

- Remove all obstructions within the Required ALDOT 20:1 Approach/Departure Path.
- *Note: the obstructions detailed in this report are representative and may not include all obstructions in the Approach/Departure Path.*

## **2. Primary Surface Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(2)**

### **State Licensing Standards:**

- Primary Surface (See Appendix 1): The primary surface is 250 feet wide, centered on the runway centerline and extends 200 feet past the end of the marked runway. The primary surface is required to be free of all obstructions, manmade or natural. The only allowable objects are runway lights, guidance signs, or navigation equipment that by function is required to be within the primary surface boundaries.

### **Inspection Results:**

- The primary surface **meets** state licensing requirements.

## **3. Runway Safety Area Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(3)**

### **State Licensing Standards:**

- Runway Safety Area (Appendix 1): All runways are required to maintain an obstruction free area adjacent to each runway. This area is 120 feet wide, centered on the runway centerline, and extends for a distance of 200 feet past the runway end. The area must be compacted and graded smooth with no ruts, humps, depressions or other potentially hazardous surface variations. The slope along the longitudinal centerline shall not exceed a rise or fall of three percent in elevation relative to the runway end elevation. The lip from the top of the pavement to the grade adjacent to the runway should not exceed 3 inches.



# Annual Inspection Report Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0) Hartselle, Alabama

December 8, 2021

## **Inspection Results: VIOLATION**

- There were large ruts discovered near the approach end of Runway 36, causing hazardous surface variations, measured between 38 feet and 45 feet left of the runway centerline (See Photo #3).

## **Required Action:**

- Fill in ruts and compact area smooth so that no hazardous surface variations exist.

**Photo #3 – Ruts in Runway Safety Area**



## **4. Airport Markings Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(4)**

### **State Licensing Standards:**

- Airport Markings: All runways are required to be marked in a manner identifying the boundaries of the landing areas. The runway markings must be painted white and be maintained in a legible condition.

# Annual Inspection Report Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0) Hartselle, Alabama

December 8, 2021

## **Inspection Results:**

- The airport markings are in **GOOD** condition (See Photo #4).

**Photo #4 – Runway 36 NPI Markings**



## **5. Wind Direction Indicator Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(5)**

### **State Licensing Standards:**

- Wind Direction Indicators: All airports are required to have an operational wind direction indicator. It must be installed in a highly visible area and free from obstructions to ensure true wind direction and velocity. Night operations require the indicator be lighted.

### **Inspection Results:**

- The wind direction indicator (wind sock) is operational and in **FAIR** condition (See Photo #5).

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Photo #5 – Wind Direction Indicator



## 6. Airport Lighting Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(6)

### State Licensing Standards:

- Airport Lighting: Runway lights and a lighted wind direction indicator are required for night operations. A rotating beacon is suggested. All runway, threshold, and taxiway lighting shall be maintained in operational condition and shall not be obscured by natural growth such as grass and/or weeds.

### Inspection Results:

- An inspection of the lighting system had the following results:

<b>Runway Lights</b>	0 inoperable
<b>Taxiway Lights</b>	0 inoperable
<b>Threshold Lights</b>	0 inoperable
<b>VASI</b>	1 inoperable

# Annual Inspection Report Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0) Hartselle, Alabama

December 8, 2021

## Maintenance Required:

- Replace bulb in center front box of VASI system.

## 7. Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(7)

### State Licensing Standards:

- Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions: All airport pavement surfaces associated with aircraft operations must be kept smooth and free of any defect or obstruction that could damage an aircraft. The lip of the airport pavement surfaces must not exceed three (3) inches in elevation from the top of the pavement to the shoulder. The drop should only be enough to allow sufficient drainage and not pose a control problem for aircraft exiting the runway. The aircraft parking apron is for the operation and parking of aircraft only and should be smooth and free of obstructions or defects that could cause damage to aircraft during operations.

### Inspection Results:

- An inspection of the airport pavement surfaces had the following results:

<b>Apron</b>	<b>FAIR.</b> The apron is experiencing moderate weathering; however, the crack seals are holding up well. The apron near the hangars is experiencing extensive cracking and raveling (See Photo #6).
<b>Taxiways</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Runway</b>	<b>GOOD.</b> The runway surface appears weathered; however, this is a visual effect of the previous surface treatment. The actual pavement is in good condition (See Photo #4).

# Annual Inspection Report Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0) Hartselle, Alabama

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Photo #6 – Apron Cracking Near Hangars



## 8. Fueling Area Requirements Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(8)

### State Licensing Standards:

- Signs should be posted prohibiting open flames or smoking in fueling areas. The storage tanks shall be labeled for contents.
- Grounding cables must be available.
- A fire extinguisher approved for the purpose of extinguishing petroleum product fires available during all fueling operations.
- Serviceable hoses and connections that would preclude a rupture or leaking of fuel.

### Inspection Results: **VIOLATION**

- The AVGAS fueling hose and grounding cable were improperly stored (See Photo #7). Additionally, the grounding cable does not have a clamp, so it cannot be used. This creates a potentially dangerous situation and should be corrected immediately.

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- Fire extinguishers at the fueling area did not have valid inspection tags. The fire extinguisher nearest the fueling area was not charged and appeared it could be in a trash pile (See Photo #8). This does not promote a safe fueling area.
- The AVGAS tank appears to have been recently painted, however, it was not labeled for contents (See Photo #9).
- While an emergency fuel shutoff is not required, it is highly recommended that one be installed. The available emergency fuel shutoff switch was padlocked, which would severely limit its use in an emergency situation when time matters (See Photo #10).
- In general, the fueling area is not being well maintained and could expose the airport to liability if an accident were to occur (Photo #11).

## **Required Action:**

- Attach new clamp to grounding cable immediately. The fuel system should not be used until this is done to prevent an explosion or fire.
- Ensure fuel hose and grounding cable are completely reeled up and properly stored.
- Have fire extinguishers properly inspected and tagged. Inoperable or old fire extinguishers should be removed from the area and disposed of properly.
- Label AVGAS tank for contents, flammable, and no smoking.

## **Maintenance Required:**

- Remove lock from emergency fuel shutoff switch.

*\*NOTE: some of these issues have been recurring problems with the fuel system for several years. The airport must act to correct these issues promptly.*

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Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0)  
Hartselle, Alabama**

December 8, 2021

**Photo #7 – Fuel Hose and Grounding Cable**



**Photo #8 – Un-Charged Fire Extinguisher with Missing Tags and Labels**



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**Photo #9 – Unmarked AVGAS Tank**



**Photo #10 – Emergency Fuel Shutoff Switch with Lock**





# Annual Inspection Report Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0) Hartselle, Alabama

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Photo #11 – Un-Maintained Fueling Area



## 9. Prohibited Activities Administrative Code 450-9-1-.16

### State Licensing Standards:

- Prohibited Activities: The use of any portion of the aircraft operations area, or airport property within the boundaries of the imaginary surfaces of a licensed airport for any purpose other than the operation of aircraft shall be deemed a non-aeronautical activity and is prohibited.

### Inspection Results:

- No prohibited activities were observed during the inspection.

# Annual Inspection Report Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0) Hartselle, Alabama

December 8, 2021

**Summary:**

The table below summarizes items noted in this report:

## Inspection Summary

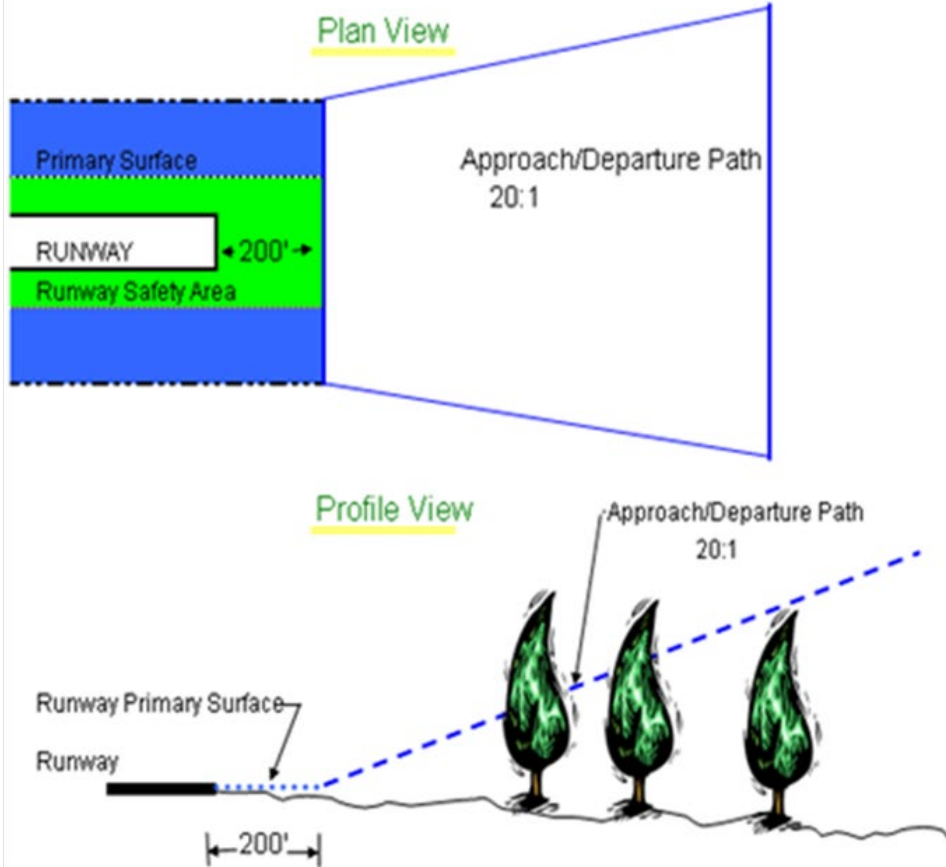
Inspection Area	Violation/Maintenance	Corrective Action
Approach/Departure Path	VIOLATION	Remove all obstructions in the Required ALDOT 20:1 Approach/Departure Paths to both Runways.
Runway Safety Area	VIOLATION	Fill in ruts and compact area smooth.
Airport Lighting	Maintenance	Repair/Replace inoperable center light in front box of VASI system.
Fueling Area Requirements	VIOLATION	<p>Replace grounding cable clip.</p> <p>Ensure fuel hose and grounding cable are properly stored.</p> <p>Have fire extinguishers properly inspected and tagged. Remove and replace old extinguishers.</p> <p>Highly recommended that lock be removed from emergency fuel shutoff.</p> <p>Maintain fueling area and dispose of rubbish.</p>

Please contact Mr. Gus Slaten with the Alabama Department of Transportation at (334) 242-6820 with questions concerning the Annual Inspection Report.

# Annual Inspection Report Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Airport (5M0) Hartselle, Alabama

December 8, 2021

Approach and Departure Path Dimensions			
Inner Width	Outer Width	Length	Acreage
250 Feet	450 Feet	1,000 Feet	8.04 Acres
Primary Surface Dimensions			
250 Feet Wide Centered Along Runway Centerline			
Extending 200 Feet Past the Runway End			
Runway Safety Area Dimensions			
120 Feet Wide Centered Along Runway Centerline			
Extending 200 Feet Past the Runway End			



## APPENDIX 1

# APPENDIX 2

## Hartselle-Morgan County Regional Hartselle, AL December 8, 2021 Runway 18 Obstruction Evaluation

Notes:  
1. Drawing not to scale.  
2. For informational purposes only.  
3. Aerial image may not be current.  
4. Obstructions identified are representative and may not include all existing obstructions.

- ALDOT 20:1 Violation
- Penetrates FAA Part 77 Surface
- Controlling Obstruction

1. Tree 58' Abv RWY  
425' From RWY End  
149' Left of CL  
3:1 Obst Clnc

4. Tree 45' Abv RWY  
853' From RWY End  
107' Left of CL  
14:1 Obst Clnc

6. Tree 60' Abv RWY  
1136' From RWY End  
92' Left of CL  
15:1 Obst Clnc

9. Trees 40' Abv RWY  
875' From RWY End  
146' Right of CL  
16:1 Obst Clnc

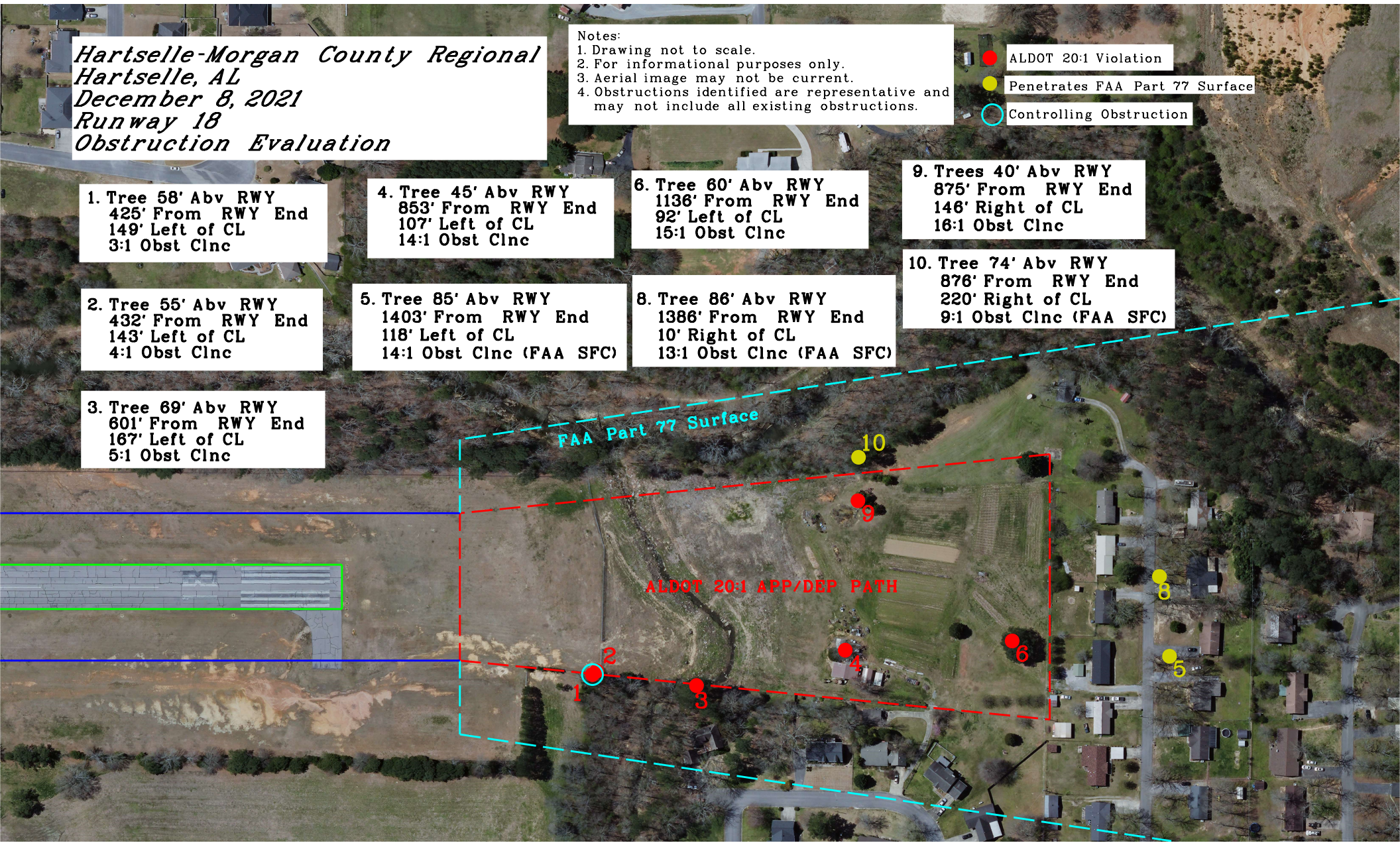
2. Tree 55' Abv RWY  
432' From RWY End  
143' Left of CL  
4:1 Obst Clnc

5. Tree 85' Abv RWY  
1403' From RWY End  
118' Left of CL  
14:1 Obst Clnc (FAA SFC)

8. Tree 86' Abv RWY  
1386' From RWY End  
10' Right of CL  
13:1 Obst Clnc (FAA SFC)

10. Tree 74' Abv RWY  
878' From RWY End  
220' Right of CL  
9:1 Obst Clnc (FAA SFC)

3. Tree 69' Abv RWY  
601' From RWY End  
167' Left of CL  
5:1 Obst Clnc



# APPENDIX 3

**Hartselle-Morgan County Regional  
Hartselle, AL  
December 8, 2021  
Runway 36  
Obstruction Evaluation**

Notes:  
 1. Drawing not to scale.  
 2. For informational purposes only.  
 3. Aerial image may not be current.  
 4. Obstructions identified are representative and may not include all existing obstructions.

- ALDOT 20:1 Violation
- Penetrates FAA Part 77 Surface
- Controlling Obstruction

1. Tree 87' Abv RWY  
 700' From RWY End  
 194' Right of CL  
 5:1 Obst Clnc

2. Tree 97' Abv RWY  
 947' From RWY End  
 216' Right of CL  
 7:1 Obst Clnc

3. Tree 86' Abv RWY  
 1,277' From RWY End  
 197' Right of CL  
 12:1 Obst Clnc

4. Tree 87' Abv RWY  
 1,620' From RWY End  
 95' Right of CL  
 16:1 Obst Clnc

5. Tree 65' Abv RWY  
 1174' From RWY End  
 64' Right of CL  
 14:1 Obst Clnc

6. Tree 65' Abv RWY  
 1174' From RWY End  
 64' Right of CL  
 14:1 Obst Clnc

7. Tree 58' Abv RWY  
 1158' From RWY End  
 36' Right of CL  
 16:1 Obst Clnc

8. Tree 54' Abv RWY  
 1186' From RWY End  
 20' Left of CL  
 18:1 Obst Clnc

9. Tree 108' Abv RWY  
 1720' From RWY End  
 59' Left of CL  
 14:1 Obst Clnc

10. Tree 96' Abv RWY  
 1479' From RWY End  
 164' Left of CL  
 13:1 Obst Clnc

11. Tree 69' Abv RWY  
 1358' From RWY End  
 140' Left of CL  
 16:1 Obst Clnc

