



Kay Ivey
GOVERNOR

ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

AERONAUTICS BUREAU
1409 COLISEUM BOULEVARD
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
PHONE (334) 242-6820
FAX (334) 353-6540
Internet: <https://www.dot.state.al.us>



John R. Cooper
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

October 20, 2025

Mr. Donald Bennett, Chairman
Perry County Airport & Industrial Authority
P.O. Box 666
Marion, Alabama 36756

Subject: Annual Inspection Report
Vaiden Field Airport (A08)

Dear Mr. Bennett:

An inspection of the Vaiden Field Airport (A08) was conducted by personnel of the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on September 17, 2025. 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 the airport. As noted in the report, the airport **does not meet** the requirements for the issuance of an operating license. Several violations were noted during inspection that were a repeat of findings from the previous Annual Airport Inspection. Therefore, the operating license is being **suspended** pending the correction of the deficiencies noted in the report. Please note that the Code of Alabama 23-1-375 prohibits the operation of an airport for which a license has not been issued.

The Aeronautics Bureau would like to have a meeting with the airport sponsor regarding the findings in the attached Annual Inspection Report. The Aeronautics Bureau will reach out imminently to schedule this meeting. If you should you have any questions concerning the inspection or corrective actions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Noah Sowell with the Aeronautics Bureau at (334) 242-6831.

Sincerely,

Frank Farmer
Chief, Aeronautics Bureau

Copy: Mr. William Schuller, FAA/ADO
Ms. Inez Williams, FAA/ADO

September 17, 2025



ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT



**VAIDEN FIELD AIRPORT
MARION, ALABAMA**

Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau—Annual Airport Inspection Report

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Alabama 23-1-357, an inspection of the **Vaiden Field Airport** was conducted by **Mr. Noah Sowell and Mr. Jason Hare** with the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on **September 17, 2025**.

The inspection was conducted on the airport under the provisions of the Administrative Code Chapter 450-9-1 for the following areas:

| Aeronautics Administrative Code | Inspection Results | Corrective Action | Notes |
|--|--|--|---|
| Approach & Departure Paths Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (1) | <i>Violation</i> | Remove or mitigate all trees that penetrate the ALDOT 20:1 Approach/Departure Path. <i>Note:</i> The trees found can be checked by a licensed surveyor to determine if they are obstructions. | Obstructions were detected inside the ALDOT 20:1 Approach/Departure Path. See Appendix #2. |
| Primary Surface Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (2) | <i>Violation</i> | Please clear all trees, bushes and tall grass from this area. See Appendix #2 and page #4. | Significant vegetation exists within the Primary Surface north of the Runway 16 approach end. |
| Runway Safety Area Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (3) | <i>Violation</i> | Please remove the cable connected to a threshold light from the Safety Area. | A cable on the Runway 16 approach end is inside the Runway Safety Area. See page #5. |
| Airport Markings Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (4) | <i>Violation</i> | Repaint runway markings in accordance with FAA AC 150/5340-1M. | Some runway markings are almost entirely faded. See page #6. |
| Wind Direction Indicator Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (5) | <i>Violation</i> | Please install a wind direction indicator that is in a visible area free of obstructions. | The existing wind direction indicator does not comply with state licensing standards. See page #9. |
| Airport Lighting Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (6) | <i>In Compliance</i> <i>Maintenance</i> | The airport is restricted to daytime VFR use only. A NOTAM prohibiting night operations should be issued. | All airfield lighting was inoperable at the time of inspection. No NOTAM closing the airport to nighttime operations is in effect. See page #10. |
| Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (7) | <i>In Compliance</i> <i>Maintenance</i> | Please clear all vegetation from pavement cracks. | Some apron surfaces have vegetation growing through cracks. See page #13. |
| Fueling Area Requirements Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (8) | <i>Violation</i> | Please get fire extinguishers reinspected as soon as possible to verify their safe operational status. | The fire extinguishers at the fueling area are two years overdue for annual inspection. |
| Prohibited Activities Administrative Code 450-9-1-.16 | <i>Violation</i> | Please install barriers to entry or enact greater security measures to prevent unauthorized airfield access. | There is evidence that unauthorized vehicles and persons are accessing and damaging the airfield. See page #18 and #19. |
| Additional Items | <i>In Compliance</i> <i>Maintenance</i> | Please relocate trailer. Clear the airfield of any broken light components to mitigate the FOD hazard they present. | There is a trailer on the hangar apron surface. Broken light globe pieces were found throughout the airfield. See page #20. |

License Status—Suspended

The corrective actions that may be prescribed in this inspection report do not relieve the airport sponsor from compliance with any other Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations that may be applicable. It is the responsibility of the airport sponsor 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.

Code of Alabama 23-1-357(a)... a person or municipality may not operate an airport, restricted landing area, or other navigation facility without a license issued by this Department.

Vaiden Field Airport

Approach and Departure Paths—Runway 16

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(1)



VIOLATION: There were obstructions detected inside the ALDOT 20:1 Approach/Departure Path of Runway 16. These trees must be removed. **See Appendix #2.**

Note: Obstructions identified are representative and may not include all existing obstructions. These trees can also be checked by a licensed surveyor to determine if they are obstructions.

Vaiden Field Airport

Approach and Departure Paths—Runway 34

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(1)



There were no obstructions detected inside the ALDOT 20:1 Approach/Departure Path of Runway 34.

Vaiden Field Airport

Primary Surface

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(2)

North of RWY 16 Approach End



VIOLATION: The Primary Surface **DOES NOT MEET** state licensing standards. Significant vegetation exists within the boundaries of the Primary Surface north of the Runway 16 approach end. Please clear the Primary Surface of all trees, bushes and tall grass. See **Appendix #2** for additional information.

Vaiden Field Airport

Runway Safety Area

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(3)



VIOLATION: The Runway Safety Area **DOES NOT MEET** state licensing standards. A cable connected to a threshold light on the Runway 16 approach end is inside the Runway Safety Area and should be removed immediately.

Vaiden Field Airport

Airport Markings—Runway

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(4)



VIOLATION: The runway designator markings are in **FAIR** condition. However, all other runway markings, including the centerline, side-stripe and threshold markings, are **almost entirely faded** and in **VERY POOR** condition. Please repaint these markings in accordance with FAA AC 150/5340-1M.

Vaiden Field Airport

Airport Markings—Taxiway

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(4)



MAINTENANCE: The taxiway markings range from **FAIR** to **POOR** condition. Most taxiway centerline and hold short markings are faded or almost entirely faded in some instances. Markings in poor condition should be repainted in accordance with FAA AC 150/5340-1M.

Vaiden Field Airport

Airport Markings—Apron

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(4)



MAINTENANCE: The apron markings are faded and in **POOR** condition. The apron markings should be repainted in accordance with FAA AC 150/5340-1M.

Vaiden Field Airport

Wind Direction Indicator

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(5)

Existing wind direction indicator—not compliant due to its location.



Previous location of compliant wind direction indicator.



VIOLATION: Although there is a wind direction indicator at the main apron hangar, it **DOES NOT MEET** state licensing standards as it is not located in an area that is visible from any point on the airfield or free of wind obstructions. The airport previously had a wind direction indicator that was compliant with state standards in the field to the west of the runway, shown in a picture above. Please replace the wind direction indicator that was in this location or install a new one in an area that is highly visible and free of wind obstructions.

Vaiden Field Airport

Airport Lighting

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(6)

An inspection of the lighting system had the following results:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Runway Lights | All inoperable |
| Taxiway Lights | All inoperable |
| Threshold Lights | All inoperable |
| PAPI | All inoperable |
| REIL | N/A |

MAINTENANCE: The lighting system **MEETS** State Licensing Standards for **daytime VFR use only**, as the entire system was inoperable at the time of inspection. A NOTAM exists noting that all airfield lighting is unserviceable. However, a NOTAM closing the airport to nighttime operations should also be issued.

Vaiden Field Airport

Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions—RUNWAY

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(7)



The runway surface is in **FAIR** overall condition.

Vaiden Field Airport

Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions—TAXIWAY

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(7)



The taxiway surface is in **FAIR** overall condition.

Vaiden Field Airport

Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions—APRON

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(7)



MAINTENANCE: The apron surfaces range from **FAIR** to **POOR** condition. All apron surfaces exhibit cracking with varying degrees of severity. Vegetation is growing through these cracks in some areas. Please clear all vegetation from apron surface cracks.

Vaiden Field Airport

Fueling Area Requirements

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(8)

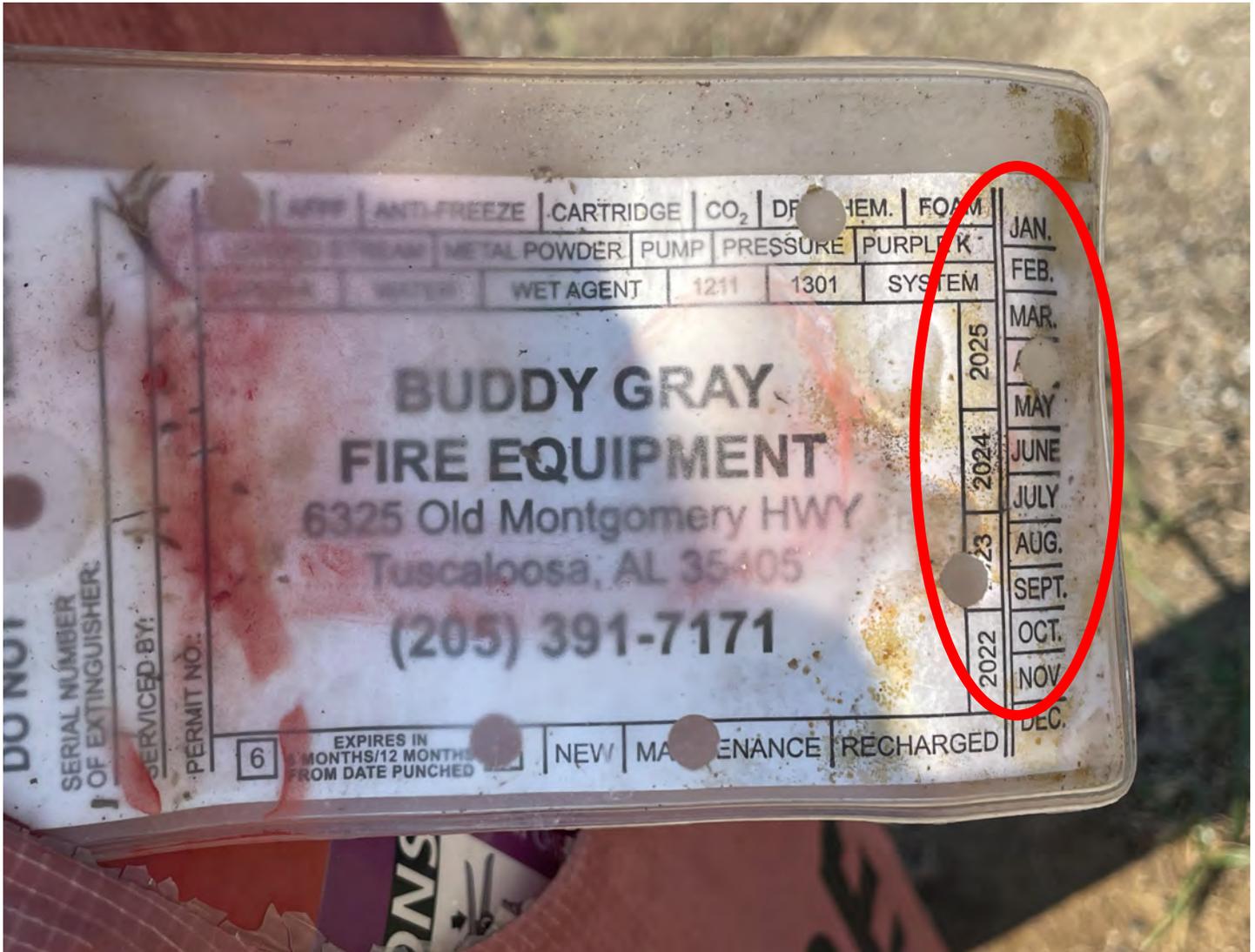


VIOLATION: The fueling area **DOES NOT MEET** state licensing requirements. There were several deficiencies noted during inspection regarding the fueling infrastructure. These items are detailed on the following pages, please refer to them for more information.

Vaiden Field Airport

Fueling Area Requirements

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(8)



VIOLATION: The fire extinguishers located at the fueling area are two years overdue for annual inspection. Please get fire extinguishers reinspected as soon as possible to verify their safe operational status.

Vaiden Field Airport

Fueling Area Requirements

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(8)



MAINTENANCE: The AvGas fuel transfer hose was improperly stored at the time of inspection. The fueling nozzle was uncapped and should be inspected as soon as possible to verify that no pollutants have breached its filter and entered the hose system.

Vaiden Field Airport

Fueling Area Requirements

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(8)



MAINTENANCE: The emergency fuel system shutoff switch, circled above, should be labeled more clearly so that any operators using the fuel system can find it and stop the pump in an emergency. Please add signs at the point-of-sale kiosk indicating the direction of the shutoff switch.

Vaiden Field Airport

Prohibited Activities

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.16

Main Apron



Runway 16 Approach End



VIOLATION: There is evidence that unauthorized vehicles are accessing the airfield. Automobile and tractor tire marks were observed on several of the airfield pavement surfaces, including Runway 16/34. Please install barriers to entry or enact greater security measures to prevent unauthorized vehicles from accessing the airfield in the future. Talk with agriculture operators and inform them that traversing on airfield surfaces is prohibited.

Vaiden Field Airport

Prohibited Activities

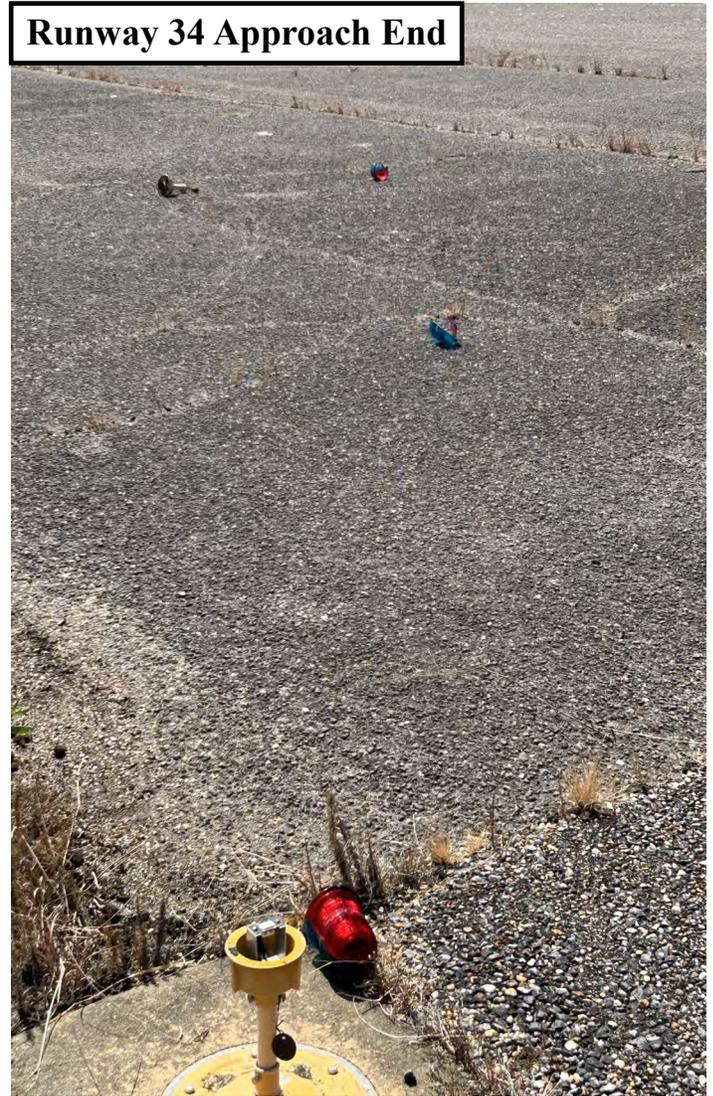
Administrative Code 450-9-1-.16



VIOLATION: Several wood burn piles were observed at the northern end of the parallel taxiway. These fires have damaged the pavement and several nails were found in the remains of the fires. Some of these nails have become embedded in the pavement and present a serious damage risk to aircraft. The fires were in close proximity to a dry field adjacent to the taxiway. Please install barriers to entry or enact greater security measures to prevent unauthorized persons from accessing the airfield in the future.

Vaiden Field Airport

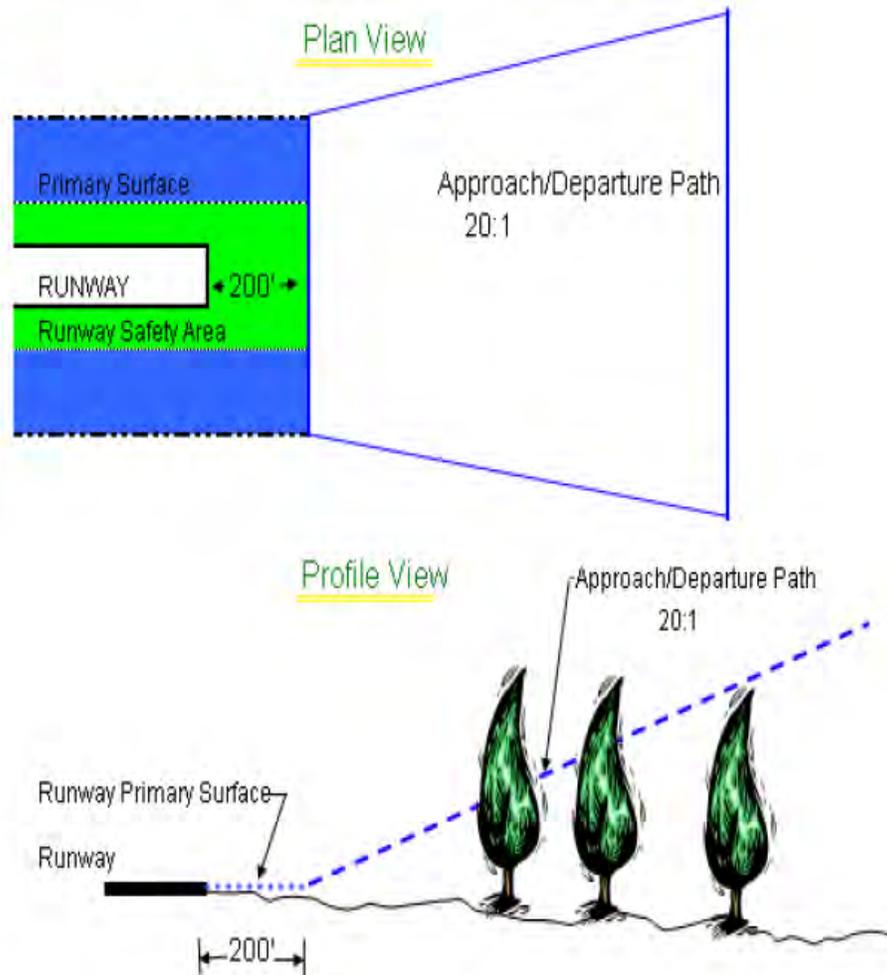
Additional Items



MAINTENANCE: A trailer, circled above, was observed on the hangar apron. Please relocate this trailer from the apron surface. Additionally, several broken light globes and lighting components were observed on the airfield. These present a FOD hazard and should be cleared from the airfield as soon as possible.

APPENDIX 1

| 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 2

Vaiden Field Airport
Marion, AL
September 17, 2025
Runway 16 Obstruction Evaluation

3. Tree, 14' Abv RWY
388' From RWY End
116' Left of CL
13:1 Obst Clnc

4. Tree, 11' Abv RWY
180' From RWY End
96' Left of CL
0:1 Obst Clnc

5. Tree, 10' Abv RWY
88' From RWY End
120' Left of CL
0:1 Obst Clnc

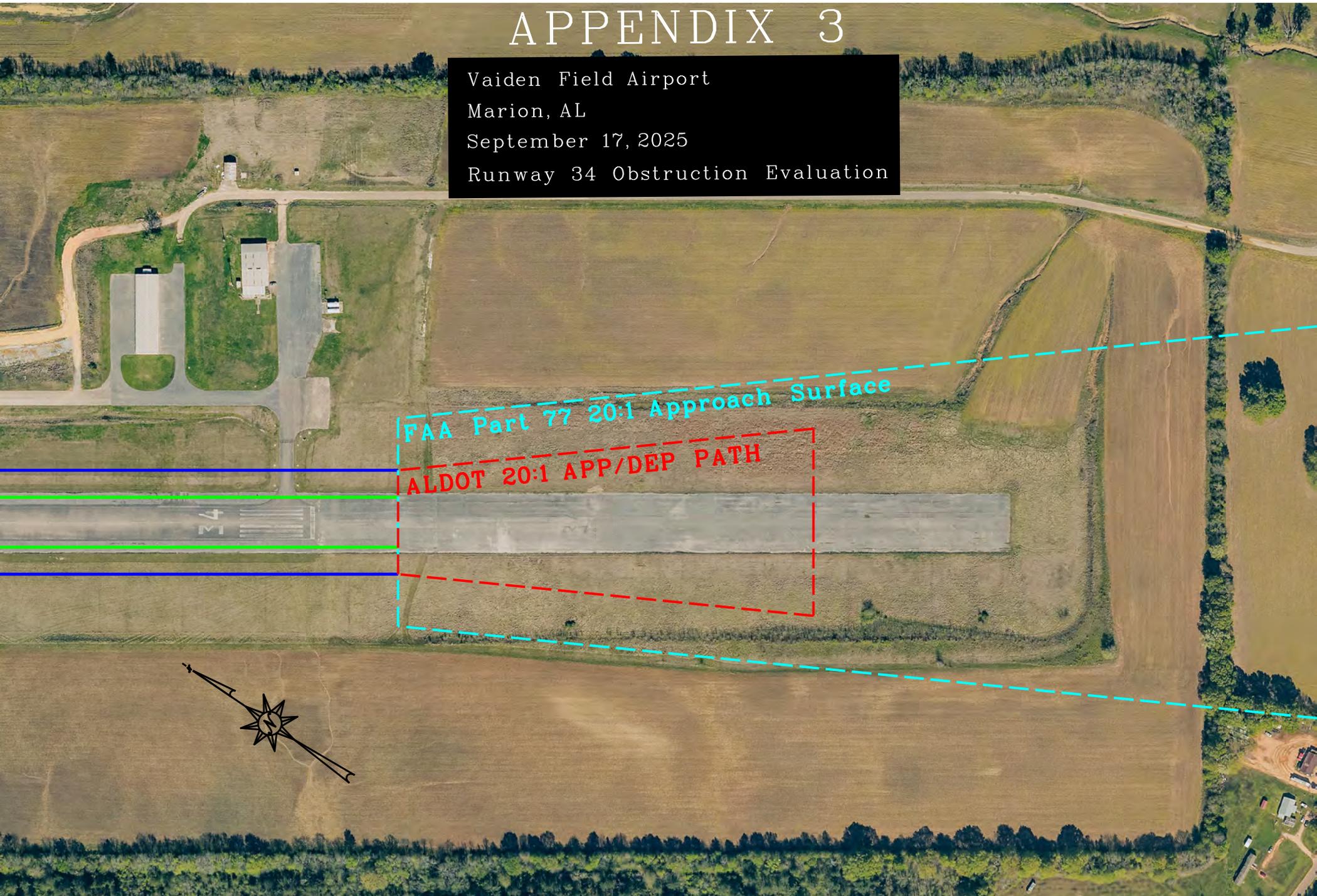
FAA Part 77 20:1 Approach Surface

ALDOT 20:1 APP/DEP PATH

-
- ALDOT 20:1 Approach/Departure Path Violation
 - FAA Part 77 34:1 Approach Surface Obstruction
 - Controlling Obstruction
 - Remove all vegetation within this boundary

APPENDIX 3

Vaiden Field Airport
Marion, AL
September 17, 2025
Runway 34 Obstruction Evaluation



FAA Part 77 20:1 Approach Surface

ALDOT 20:1 APP/DEP PATH

