AIRPORT DOGFIGHT

3 suburbs maneuvering to add big cities to expansion lawsuit

By Scott Williams
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

GRAPEVINE — Saying "we are not afraid," the suburban communities battling Dallas/Fort Worth Airport expansion yesterday moved to bring the airport's two namesake landlords into a lawsuit that could decide whether the suburbs can control airport growth.

Grapevine, Euless and Irving — in their first response to a lawsuit filed by D/FW — called Fort Worth and Dallas "the real parties" to the lawsuit and demanded that those cities either join or replace the airport in the court fight.

Grapevine Mayor Bill Tate told reporters at a news conference that suburban elected leaders are not hesitant to do battle with their counterparts in the bigger and more powerful cities of Fort Worth and Dallas.

"When you get to the courthouse, everybody's rights are equal," Tate said. "We are not afraid of the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth."

Dallas Mayor Annette Strauss declined to comment yesterday, saying that she had not yet been briefed on the three suburbs' latest legal maneuver in the 15-month-old airport expansion squabble.

Fort Worth Mayor Bob Bolen could not be reached for comment.

Michael Jung, a Dallas attorney who represents the airport, said he disagrees that Fort Worth and Dallas must be involved in the case, but he said the dynamics of the legal battle likely would not change significantly if they

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Bill Tate: Grapevine mayor challenges cities