The Louisiana Airport Authority has asked the state for $667,000 for the next fiscal year in part to match an anticipated federally funded feasibility study.

That study will depend on the outcome of an ongoing feasibility study on building a major international airport and transportation center between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The first study is expected to be completed in March 1994. If the Federal Aviation Administration approves the next step, it will mean just over $1.3 million in federal funds for an environmental assessment and master study, according to documents released at Tuesday’s Airport Authority meeting in Baton Rouge.

The state match and other non-matching state operating funds for the agency will come to $666,660 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1994.

The budget request notes that the “multimodal” center — to include access to an airport, sea port, and rail — “will also be located near the Mississippi River to enable the incorporation of all forms of transportation.”

However, Bruce Capps of Greiner Inc, the engineering firm that helped write the request, said after the meeting that the wording does not mean the study will exclude parishes not bordering the river.

The Airport Authority has contracted with Greiner to study the feasibility of an airport and transportation center to be located somewhere in Ascension, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany and Assumption parishes.

Meanwhile, possible mayoral candidates in New Orleans expressed concern at a recent televised forum that the Airport Authority will create a structure that will compete with New Orleans International Airport, according to Airport Authority member Nick Baroni.

“They are entirely different projects,” said Airport Authority member Glen Smith. “New Orleans International and the Baton Rouge facility are not going to be able to do what this facility can do.”


Many of the candidates at the televised forum expressed an interest in having the state purchase the Kenner-based New Orleans International Airport from the city, Baroni said.

“They felt there was some politics there that wasn’t healthy for the airport,” Baroni said.

The Louisiana Airport Authority, a state agency, has been holding informational meetings for public officials throughout the region.

Smith said they’ll soon hold two meetings in Ascension Parish now that voters have elected a parish president.

Tommy Martinez, elected Saturday, will assume office as Ascension Parish president Jan. 1.