

# LONG-TERM AIR TRANSPORTATION STUDY (LATS)

## Washington State Aviation Planning Council

### PURPOSE and NEED STATEMENT

Maintaining a healthy aviation system is in the interests of the nation and the citizens of Washington State.

Washington's aviation system provides intrastate, national and international access for passengers and goods and is an important component of our national defense capability. Washington State's aviation system is an essential function of our overall transportation system, because it

- moves people and goods
- supports business and commerce
- promotes quality of life
- provides access for critical emergency and disaster management services that other transportation modes cannot accommodate.

Airports in the system range from large airports that serve major population centers to small community airports that are a critical link to sparsely populated expanses and local economies. Although Washington's airports are diverse, with different roles and needs, they must function together as a healthy, balanced system.

The Washington State Aviation Planning Council was established by the Legislature and appointed by the Governor to develop recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for policies and capital investment strategies needed to maintain a healthy aviation system.

The Council's recommendations will be based upon current State policy goals, the analysis presented in the Long-term Air Transportation study (LATS), public input, and additional technical research. As directed by the Legislature, technical and administrative support will be provided by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation Division and a technical consultant team.