



## **WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report February 2007**

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### **Memorandum of Understanding to be Signed Between WSDOT and Civil Air Patrol**

It has been over 30 years since an official Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been in place between WSDOT Aviation and the Washington Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. That will change at this year's Northwest Aviation Conference and Trade Show in Puyallup. A new MOU will be signed by WSDOT Aviation Director, John Sibold, and Washington Wing Commander, Colonel Dave Maxwell.

The new MOU will:

Formalize the partnership between WSDOT Aviation and CAP in air search and rescue and disaster relief efforts.

Enable search and rescue resources to be shared between both agencies.

Establish policies and procedures for conducting air search and rescue missions.

The signing will take place at noon on Saturday, February 24 at the WSDOT ICP trailer display in the Showplex Hall. If you are in the area or planning to attend the show, WSDOT invites you come and be part of this event.

WSDOT Aviation is the responsible agency for conducting Air Search and Rescue missions, and tracking and silencing electronic distress beacons. The Washington Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has been an integral partner to WSDOT in carrying out these missions for over 50 years.

For more information contact Tom Peterson, Aviation Emergency Services Coordinator, at (360) 651-6308 or [peterth@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:peterth@wsdot.wa.gov).

Information on the Northwest Aviation Trade Show can be found at:  
[www.washingtonaviation.org](http://www.washingtonaviation.org).

Information about the Civil Air Patrol, Washington Wing, can be found at:  
[www.wawg.cap.gov](http://www.wawg.cap.gov).

Information about WSDOT Aviation can be found at: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation)

### **New Name Selected for Study of State-Operated Airports: WMA**

The study of state-operated airports is intended to provide a better understanding of the 17 facilities currently managed by WSDOT Aviation. The project is just one of the division's several ongoing planning efforts, and will be included as part of the aviation system plan – LATS. In order to avoid confusion between this project and others currently underway, WSDOT selected a new name this week: *WSDOT-Managed Airports (WMA): System Evaluation and Strategic Plan*. The name helps differentiate this effort from other projects and reflects its purpose, which is to understand the origins of the state-managed airport system and set a direction for its future. The WMA began in early February; an independent assessment provided by WSDOT's consulting team will be available by May 2007.

### **WSDOT Aviation Begins Phase II of Long-Term Air Transportation Study**

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has recently launched into Phase II of its three-phase study to inventory and evaluate current and future needs at Washington State's 140 public use airports. Phase II of the Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS) will conduct long-range airport demand forecasts, air cargo assessments and market analyses, as well as evaluate high-speed passenger rail service. In addition, future capacity estimates will be developed for each airport and compared to the forecast demand for the next 25 years.

LATS was initiated in 2005 at the request of the Washington State Legislature. It is a first of its kind, statewide planning effort that seeks to make decisions about our long-term aviation needs.

Aviation is an essential part of our state's overall transportation system. Airports must plan to meet future demand and new safety requirements while considering environmental impacts. As population continues to rise in the state there will be increasing competition for land uses that will require decision makers and the public to consider the overall benefits of future airport development for the state's economic well-being. This study will be an important tool in that decision-making process. Phase II findings will be released at the end of July 2007. At that time the findings of both Phases I and II will be presented to an Aviation Council appointed by the Governor, and will help to identify which airports will meet, exceed or fall short of adequately serving the anticipated future demand. Opportunities to learn more about the Phase II findings will occur later this spring.

Please visit the LATS Web page to see the latest revisions to our communication plan and learn how you can get involved: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/LATS.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/LATS.htm) . For further information contact Nisha Marvel, WSDOT Aviation Communications, at 360-651-6310 or [marveln@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:marveln@wsdot.wa.gov) .

### **Aviation Staff Gears Up for 120 Airport Conference Calls**

As the Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS) consulting team puts the finishing touches on their forecast analysis, WSDOT Aviation staff is preparing to call the state's public use airports to review the results. The purpose of the calls is to share information with airport managers, answer their questions, and record their feedback. This step is considered an important part of verifying data used in LATS, increasing awareness about the plan, and fostering support among stakeholders. The forecast analysis, which provides anticipated aviation activity levels for the year 2030, will be used to evaluate future aviation system needs. In order to complete this portion of the project on schedule, seven WSDOT Aviation staff members will conduct phone conferences with approximately 120 airports by mid-March.

### **WSDOT Installs New Web Camera at The Dalles**

WSDOT Aviation Construction Project Manager, Jeff Kvamme, traveled to The Dalles Municipal Airport this week in pursuit of adding another Web camera to Aviation's Web site. Working with airport sponsors and Aeronautical Management, Inc., Kvamme successfully completed the installation, which he had committed to do by the end of February. After receiving the proper authorization and researching liability issues, Kvamme anticipates The Dalles Web camera will be available to the public on Aviation's Web site in early March.

Airport Web cameras offer pilots real time information about the weather and conditions at airports around the state. According to Web tracking stats, the cameras continue to be the most viewed pages on Aviation's site. The new Dalles Web camera incorporates newer technology that provides clearer images and less risk of technical errors. Aviation hopes to incorporate this new technology into its existing and future cameras in order to bring the highest level of service to its online customers.