



## WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report April 2009

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### **Reminder: WSDOT extends public comment period for Methow State Airport's draft alternatives**

The WSDOT Aviation Division is giving the public more time to comment on proposed alternatives for the Methow State Airport's runway. The proposed alternatives were developed as part of Methow's Airport Layout Plan (ALP) update.

The initial public comment period began March 19 and was scheduled to last through April 17. However, after receiving several requests from airport neighbors, WSDOT will extend the public comment period through April 30.

The proposed alternatives are available at:  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2009/03/MethowALP.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2009/03/MethowALP.htm).

You may submit comments by the following methods:

- By e-mail to Eric Johnson at [johnsel@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:johnsel@wsdot.wa.gov)
- By phone: 360-651-6303
- By fax: 360-651-6319
- By postal mail: WSDOT Aviation, PO Box 3367, Arlington WA, 98223.

WSDOT will host a public meeting on May 20 to discuss public comments and decide on a proposed alternative. That proposed alternative will again be forwarded to the public for comment before the final preferred alternative is selected in June. We will announce a location for the public meeting in the coming weeks.

Methow's ALP update is intended to define short- and long-term airport needs. The updated ALP will help bring the airport up to standards to maintain current capabilities

and enhance safety. Since Methow is on the National Plan of Integrated Airports System (NPIAS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires its ALP to be periodically updated in order to receive federal funding.

Methow State Airport is classified as one of 19 regional service airports in the state aviation system because of its ability to accept a broad range of aircraft activity critical to the vitality of the region. It is the largest of 16 airports operated by the state.

For more information on Methow's ALP update:

Visit: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2009/03/MethowALP.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2009/03/MethowALP.htm) or e-mail Eric Johnson at [johnsel@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:johnsel@wsdot.wa.gov).

### **WSDOT Hosts Public Meeting to Discuss Methow State Airport's Draft Alternatives**

WSDOT encourages the public to attend a meeting to discuss draft alternatives for Methow's Airport Layout Plan (ALP) update:

What: Methow Airport Layout Plan Update - Public Meeting

When: May 20, 2009

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Sun Mountain Lodge, 604 Patterson Lake Road, Winthrop, WA 98862

<http://www.sunmountainlodge.com/howtofindus.html>

During the meeting, WSDOT will present background information on Methow's ALP and review the public comments received on three draft alternatives. The meeting will include an open house followed by a presentation and discussion.

The public comment period for the draft alternatives is currently underway and extends through April 30.

WSDOT will offer another 30-day public comment period on the refined alternative from May 20 – June 19. WSDOT will choose a preferred alternative by July 1.

WSDOT is updating Methow's ALP in order to comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) obligations to properly plan for future airport needs and address safety issues. Over the past 20 years, WSDOT has received over \$2,000,000 in federal grants to improve and maintain the Methow Valley State Airport, and is therefore required to apply FAA standards in its planning efforts. The Methow ALP was last updated in 1995.

For the meeting agenda and more information, visit Methow's ALP Web page at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/AllStateAirports/WSDOTUpdatesMethowALP.htm>, or contact Eric Johnson at 360-651-6303 or [johnsel@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:johnsel@wsdot.wa.gov).

## **WSDOT Invites Public to Comment on Draft Aviation Alternative Strategies**

WSDOT Aviation would like to remind you to submit comment on Washington's [draft alternative strategies](#) (pdf 1 mb). The Aviation Planning Council, with support from WSDOT, has developed these draft strategies as part of the Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS). Also available for public review is the [Aviation System Plan Summary Report](#) (pdf 4 mb), which presents the LATS key findings and policies upon which the alternative strategies are based.

The public comment period on the draft alternative strategies extends from March 4, 2009 – April 17, 2009. Please submit comments on or before April 17, 2009 to allow timely consideration of your issues and concerns by the Aviation Planning Council as it develops its final recommendations.

### **Alternative Strategies**

The draft alternative strategies are designed to address key issues facing Washington's aviation system in the areas of capacity, stewardship, and incompatible land use. These key issues represent major long-term challenges to Washington's air transportation system and impact both commercial and general aviation users across the state. The final set of strategies will ultimately become part of the Washington Aviation System Plan.

### **How to Submit Comments**

[This comment workbook](#) was developed to collect your feedback on the draft alternative strategies. You may type directly onto the form or print it out and write comments. You may mail, fax or e-mail using the contact information listed below:

Mail: WSDOT Aviation, Attn: Nisha Marvel, P.O. Box 3367, Arlington, WA 98223

E-mail: [marveln@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:marveln@wsdot.wa.gov)

Fax: (360) 651-6319

The Aviation Planning Council is a 10 member Council appointed by the Governor. The Council's purpose is to use LATS Phases I and II findings, and include public input, to determine:

- How best to meet commercial and general aviation capacity needs.
- Which regions of the state are in need of improvement regarding the matching of existing, or projected, airport facilities and the long-range capacity needs at airports within the region expected to reach capacity before 2030.
- Recommendations regarding the placement of future commercial or general aviation facilities to meet the need for improved aviation planning in the region.

The Aviation Planning Council will consider public comments at its next scheduled meeting TBA in May 2009 at the Museum of Flight in Seattle. This is the final meeting

of the Aviation Planning Council.

The Council's final recommendations will be submitted to the Governor, Washington State Legislature, and Washington State Transportation Commission by July 1, 2009 in accordance with Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5121.

For more information, visit the LATS Web site at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/lats](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/lats).