



WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report July 2007

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WSDOT to Fund \$1.3 Million in 2007 Airport Improvement Projects

The 2007-2009 biennium is off to a good start with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation awarding \$1.3 million in state grants to 44 airports for 88 different projects. Even better - of that \$1.3 million, WSDOT is using approximately \$219,000 to leverage \$8.4 million in federal funds. Airports also contribute a required 2.5% local match to federal funds for their specific projects. Therefore, the combination of state, federal and local match funds brings the grand project total for this round of grants to more than \$10 million.

Funding Breakdown

State: \$1,334,703.28

Federal: \$8,424,799.85

Local Match: \$360,927.09

Total: \$10,135,155.22

WSDOT Places High Priority on Pavement Projects at Smaller Airports

Consistent with other grant rounds, WSDOT focused most of its funds - approximately \$701,000 - towards pavement projects at smaller Washington airports. As revealed in the most recent Airport Pavement Management System report, 23% of Washington airport pavements have deteriorated to the point where costly reconstruction or even rehabilitation is needed. For the rest of the airport pavements, preventative maintenance is required to avoid such costly repair. Through its grant program, WSDOT aims to fund more crucial pavement projects in order to benefit the state's overall air transportation system.

More interesting facts about this first round of 07-09 grants:

- Represents the highest number of airports awarded and most number of projects.
- Forty-five airports applied / 44 funded - 108 projects requested / 88 funded.
- More airports are beginning projects identified through WSDOT funded airport layout plans and pavement maintenance reports completed in 2006.

WSDOT anticipates awarding a similar amount during its second round of 2007-2009 Local Airport Aid Grants in April 2008. The department will solicit applications for that round during February and March 2008.

View the complete list of 2007-2009 projects at www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/WSDOT2007AirportGrants.htm .

For more information, contact Aviation Construction Project Managers, Eric Johnson (360) 651-6303, or Jeff Kvamme (360) 651-6304.

State Aviation License Plate Proposal Grounded

As a way to help fund state-operated airport maintenance projects, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation recently proposed creating a special auto license plate for aviation. However, the proposal was grounded after WSDOT was told that the legislature, during its recent session, had not lifted the moratorium on special license plates as earlier indicated.

The proposal first took off as the department was contemplating additional ways to fund maintenance projects at the 16 state-operated airports. The airports are backcountry strips, strategically located throughout the state for emergency and recreational purposes. After contacting the Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL), WSDOT learned that state-operated airports could earn \$28 from the sale of every \$40 aviation car plate and renewal.

DOL then asked WSDOT to demonstrate support for the aviation plate by collecting 3,500 signatures from prospective purchasers. WSDOT's first attempt to collect signatures occurred at the popular Arlington Fly-in on July 11-15. Though the fly-in attracted thousands of aviation enthusiasts, only about 200 people provided signatures.

Upon learning that the moratorium on special plates had been extended, WSDOT ended its signature campaign and put the license plate proposal to rest.

“While it’s unfortunate that the proposal cannot move forward at this time, we are grateful to those who supported the idea,” said John Sibold, WSDOT Aviation Director. “We will continue to pursue unique opportunities for people to show their support for statewide aviation programs.”

WSDOT to Unveil Draft Pilot's Guide Replacement at Arlington Fly-In

For years, WSDOT has distributed its Pilot's Guide to Washington Airports at trade shows and aviation events. That will change this year at the annual Arlington Fly-in, as WSDOT will instead present a draft of the Pilot's Guide's new replacement -- the "Reference Guide to Washington Airports." This new publication offers aerial photos in color taken from a pilot's perspective, new quick reference maps and weather reporting data, and updated communications, navigation and airport services information. WSDOT anticipates having a final version ready for distribution by September 2007. Those visiting the Aviation booth at the Arlington Fly-in will have the opportunity to review the draft update and provide comments.

Christopher Bruner Joins Aviation Emergency Services Team

This week Christopher Bruner joined the Aviation staff to assist in the emergency services program for the next six months. He comes to WSDOT with experience in the Civil Air Patrol, the King County Medic One program and U.S. Coast Guard Reserve.

Chris will assist as an Air Search and Rescue Specialist, which entails serving as an alert duty officer and performing tasks in all facets of the Aviation Emergency Services Program. Chris will help with training and ELT/EPIRB mission management. Chris's primary area of expertise is in ground team operations, team development and ELT tracking and silencing. He is also an Emergency Medical Technician. We look forward to working with Chris during his temporary assignment with WSDOT, and ask you to join us in welcoming him.



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