



WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report March 2009

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Congress Funds AIP / FAA for Rest of Fiscal Year 2009

Legislation cleared both the House and Senate this week that will fund the FAA and extend the current excise and fuel taxes through September 30. The bill, importantly, also gives FAA contract authority to invest \$3.5 billion in AIP in the nation's airports during the remainder of this fiscal year. That is, of course, over and above the \$1.1 billion in stimulus money currently being released by FAA. It is anticipated that President Obama will sign the bill before the end of this month.

Congress officially released four of six airport stimulus projects for Washington State

- Bellingham: Bellingham International / Port of Bellingham: 800,000.00
- Everett: Snohomish County (Paine Field) / County of Snohomish: 11,357,407.00
- Moses Lake: Grant County International / Port of Moses Lake: 2,000,000.00
- Wenatchee: Pangborn Memorial / Ports of Douglas County and Chelan County: 1,000,000.00

WSDOT Announces New Location for Public Open House on Draft Aviation Alternative Strategies

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) reminds the public of two upcoming open houses for the Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS). Each open house provides the public with an opportunity to learn more about LATS and comment on the recently released [draft alternative strategies](#) (pdf 1 mb). The location of the Olympia open house has been changed to:

WSDOT Headquarters
310 Maple Park Avenue SE
Olympia WA

Commission Board Room
First floor (Entrance on west side of the building)
March 24, 2009
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

The Spokane open house will remain the same as previously announced:
Ramada Inn
8909 West Airport Drive
Spokane, WA
March 26, 2009
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

The Aviation Planning Council, with support from WSDOT, has developed these [draft alternative strategies](#) (pdf 1 mb) as part of 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.

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 on May 7 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.

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.

You may submit comments by the following methods:

- By e-mail to Eric Johnson at 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 or e-mail Eric Johnson at johnsel@wsdot.wa.gov.