

WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report December 2005

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1. Paine Field to Open New Boeing Visitor Center

The new 73,000 square foot *Future of Aviation Center and Boeing Tour* is scheduled to open December 17. The \$21 million center was developed through a cooperative effort between the Boeing Company and Snohomish County to expand the existing Boeing Tour and offer insight into the direction aviation is headed in the future. The Center contains a gallery filled with interactive displays, a theater, restaurant, gift shop, observation deck, meeting rooms, and gathering area for the Boeing Tour. Adjacent is the new Hilton Garden Inn, a 100-room hotel targeting both business travelers and airport visitors.



2. Snow Temporarily Stops Work at Stehekin

Heavy snow has temporarily halted work on the runway grading project at Stehekin State Airport. Workers began tilling and grading the runway in early November with hopes of seeding and rolling before the first snow; however, Mother Nature had other ideas. With the onset of an early snow season, work on the runway had to be stopped. It will resume after the snow melts in early spring.



As for Stehekin's tree removal project, conditions are still good for the next phase to begin this month. After final approval is given from the National Parks Service some

1,800 trees will be trimmed or removed to enhance safety for aircraft using the airstrip. The work should start by mid December with completion slated for mid February.

3. Mason County Adopts Airport Overlay Zone Ordinance

WSDOT Aviation attended a public hearing on Tuesday, November 22 to support Mason County's efforts to protect Sanderson Field, located outside Shelton. WSDOT also answered questions about its Airport Land Use Compatibility Program. The Mason County Board of Commissioners adopted its Airport Overlay Zone Ordinance Tuesday as part of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan Update.

The Airport Overlay Ordinance will help protect and preserve the viability of Sanderson Field. The regulation imposes height limits near the airport to improve safety, and limits land uses that may interfere with airport operations and contribute to health and safety concerns. It is the result of a cooperative process involving the county, Port of Shelton and City of Shelton.

Adoption of the Mason County Airport Overlay Zone Ordinance completes one of several planning processes involving Sanderson Field. The City of Shelton is expected to begin work on its comprehensive plan update in early 2006, and the city will continue its collaboration with Mason County on a joint Shelton Subarea Plan. Additionally, the Port of Shelton will begin work on its Airport Master Plan Update in 2006. WSDOT Aviation looks forward to working with the city, county and port on these planning efforts.

4. WSDOT Plans for Three Major Runway/Taxiway Projects at Small GA Airports

Cle Elum, Rosalia, and Ocean Shores Municipal airports are all slated to receive funds for runway and taxiway projects over the next several years. These projects are a direct result of the Airport Layout Plans (ALPs) that airports are completing as part of WSDOT's Multiple-ALP Project. Cle Elum and Rosalia are two of eight airports that WSDOT Aviation identified as being "Threatened for Closure" in 2003 due to failing runway pavements.



"Once we complete these projects in 2007 for Cle Elum and Rosalia, we will have effectively taken care of all of our failed, public use runways in this state, except Seiku, and that project is dependent on local match funding," said Stan Allison, Manager of WSDOT's Airport Aid Grant Program. "It will mark a huge accomplishment of reclaiming seven airport runways in only five years."

Ocean Shores' project is to pave an existing turf taxiway and extend the runway by approximately 400 feet. All three projects are dependent upon the successful completion of environmental assessments, which should be initiated in the second quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2006. Assuming the environmental assessments do not reveal significant issues and the FAA receives the necessary funding appropriation, FAA and WSDOT Aviation are prepared to move forward with construction in the spring of FY 2007.

5. City of Spokane Valley Planning Commission Considers Airport Overlay Ordinance

The City of Spokane Valley Planning Commission has released a draft Airport Overlay Ordinance for public comment. The overlay protects airspace and discourages incompatible land uses near Felts Field Airport. WSDOT Aviation staff traveled to Spokane Valley last Thursday to discuss the draft and provide the commission with an overview of the airport land use compatibility program.



The city adopted many of Spokane County's policies when it incorporated in 2003, and is now working on updates. City staff requested WSDOT Aviation's assistance with developing new goals and policies that are specific to the needs of Spokane Valley and Felts Field. The planning commission incorporated updated airport information into its comprehensive plan this fall, and plans to take public comment on its airport overlay ordinance in January.