

WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report May 2007

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Concerned Citizens Show Up for WSDOT Regional Workshops

Last week, WSDOT Aviation hosted two workshops in Seattle and Wenatchee to obtain feedback on the Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS). Participants heard an overview of LATS progress to date and highlights of key findings. The audience was then able to provide feedback, through a facilitated discussion, on the following topics:



- In light of Phase I and Phase II information presented, what are the key issues/implications for local communities?
- What are the implications for long-term State Aviation Planning?
- Do you have suggestions for us as we continue to complete the Phase II technical study?
- Suggestions/feedback for Phase III Outreach?

WSDOT Speaks at Washington Ports Spring Meeting

Aviation Construction Project Manager, Eric Johnson, was invited to the Washington Public Ports Association spring meeting to give a presentation on WSDOT Aviation's grant programs. Port Commissioners and Executive Directors used the meeting to ask about funding opportunities at their airports. The President of the Port of South

Whidbey, Lynae Slinder, mentioned that the Port is looking into the feasibility of acquiring Porter Field in Langley and inquired about potential funding from the state to acquire the airport. WSDOT Aviation is interested in this possibility and will have further discussions with the Port. If this acquisition takes place it would be the only publicly owned public use airport on Whidbey Island.

Volunteer Aircrew Members Eagerly Attend Survival Training

This past weekend over 30 volunteer aircrew members from Washington Air Search and Rescue (WASAR), Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and Silver Star Search and Rescue attended the classroom portion of the WSDOT Aviation Aircrew Survival Course. The intense 16 hour training was held at Boeing Field and the three day field training portion will be held at the Bandera State Airport over Memorial Day weekend.



Students were exposed to a number of survival topics that were tailored to the equipment they fly and operate, and the environment they work in. The primary instructor, Ralph Wilfong from EMT Specialists, shared his more than 30 years of survival, search and rescue, and emergency medical system experience with the group. Ralph currently spends most of his time training aircrews from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as well as the Aircrew Survival Technicians (rescue swimmers) of the U.S. Coast Guard. The focus of the training program is to “make sure our aircrews have every advantage to make it home if something should go wrong and they need to put an aircraft down in the wilderness,” according to WSDOT Aviation Emergency Services Coordinator, Thomas Peterson.

“In the past we have focused a lot of our training resources on lesser priorities. This training is now required of all our aircrew members and gives them the same professional edge that other flying organizations such as Customs and Border Protection employ. It’s just common sense!” he added.