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1. WSDOT Aviation Asks Public to Help Identify Airports of Statewide Significance

Recently WSDOT Aviation sent a survey to our aviation constituents asking for input on defining airports of statewide significance. The Washington Pilot's Association, in particular, asked for further clarification on the survey's purpose and possible impact on the overall state aviation system.

As background, Congress requires that each state develop a statewide transportation plan and update it every five years. The transportation plan in Washington is required to include all modes of transportation and identify areas of statewide interest. Facilities of statewide interest are defined by two key characteristics:

- they are vital to the statewide economy, and
- they provide cross-state mobility of people, goods, and services.

The Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) is currently being updated, and will be adopted by the Transportation Commission in 2005. The plan will cover the period from 2007-2026 and provide the basis for an investment proposal to the Legislature in 2007.

Throughout the WTP process, WSDOT Aviation strives to solicit public input early and continuously. The survey serves as an important component for encouraging public participation. In addition to the survey, WSDOT Aviation's outreach will include aviation news releases, meetings with the interested aviation groups, and regional public

meetings. You can find public meeting times, dates and other activities on our website and through our aviation news service.

An aviation work group, approved by the Aviation Advisory Committee, will use the results of the survey to help develop criteria for defining airports of statewide significance. Work group representatives will include airport sponsors, pilot associations, regional transportation organizations, FAA, and local jurisdictions across the state. The work group will participate in two meetings this summer and recommend evaluation criteria to define airports of statewide significance. Those recommendations will then go to the Aviation Advisory Committee and regional transportation planning organizations (RTPOs) for their use.

We acknowledge the concern of some community airport sponsors and general aviation pilots that airports of statewide significance might affect future funding for small airports. It is, however, possible that airports of statewide interest might include many different types and sizes of airports across the state. We will rely on the regional transportation organizations to work with local aviation interests and decide which airports in their region are of statewide significance. It is also quite possible that airports of statewide significance may require an additional funding source other than the Airport Aid Program. These ideas will undergo further discussion as we move through the public process however, ultimately, the issue of funding the state transportation system will be left to your legislators. We appreciate your involvement and for taking the time to complete the survey.

To take the online survey, please go to:
<http://67.50.150.182/Infopoll/surveys/s70.htm>

2. All State Airports Now Open for the Season!

All 16 state-owned and operated airports are open for the season. Through the hard work of volunteer work parties, and the fortune of better weather conditions, WSDOT Aviation was able to open many of the airports two months ahead of the normal June 1 opening date. Whether you are a pilot that likes to fish, camp, or hike - the state airports offer many recreational opportunities for visitors.

More information about the state airports is available at:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/airports/Amenities.htm>



Walt Buhler, age 80, mowing the tie down area at Stehekin State Airport. Walt has been a faithful volunteer for over 18 years.

3. Safety Data Indicates General Aviation Accidents Low in Washington State

As part of the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) update, WSDOT Aviation is working to identify safety statistics that can be used to prioritize improvements to the state's aviation system. Early information indicates an average of six accidents per 100,000 hours of flight in Washington State. WSDOT Aviation has read every aircraft accident report in Washington over the last 10 years to determine the major contributing factors to crashes. Mechanical failures on take-off and landings, as well as weather, contribute to most general aviation accidents. However, statistically, aviation remains the safest mode of transportation in the country. The state will work with the FAA to identify where risks are the greatest and determine priorities for facility improvements.

4. Sea-Tac Opens State of the Art Control Tower and New Air Traffic Facility

Aviation Director, John Sibold, recently attended the grand opening of the tallest building at Sea-Tac: a new 235 ft. control tower almost twice the size of the old tower. The FAA funded the entire \$19.5 million project and will operate the facility. The structure is designed to withstand earthquakes and provide visibility for all airport operations, including activities on the new third runway scheduled to open in 2008. (The third runway project recently received the go-ahead when the State Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Port's mitigation plan.) Keynote speaker Senator Patti Murray stressed the importance of Sea-Tac to the state's economy. Senator Murray was responsible for obtaining funding for the project over a 10-year period

5. WSDOT Aviation Updates Website with 2004 Airport Aid Grant Program News

Recently, WSDOT Aviation awarded more than \$1.035 million in State Airport Aid Grant money to 27 general aviation airports across the state for 2004. The most recent information on the 2004 Airport Aid grants is now available on the WSDOT Aviation website:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/news/2004/1035AirptAidGrants.htm>

6. Arlington Airport Commission Passes Resolution Opposing Proposed NASCAR Site

The Commission notified the City of Arlington and Snohomish County of the decision to oppose the NASCAR site near the airport because of the negative impact on aviation. Airport advocates are concerned about air space closures that will affect a wide range of general aviation aircraft operations at the airport. WSDOT Aviation will draft a letter to local jurisdictions advising them to consider state guidelines on compatible use before siting a NASCAR facility near an airport.

7. WSDOT Aviation Attends Search and Rescue Conference

Tom Peterson, WSDOT Emergency Services Coordinator, attended the annual Washington Search and Rescue (SAR) Conference in Lewis County. The event saw over 1,300 SAR professionals from the Pacific Northwest, New Zealand and England build relationships and obtain additional training in all SAR disciplines. Also during the conference, Peterson expressed appreciation to the county sheriffs' offices for their support during the past two SAR missions.



8. Washington State Aircraft Dealer Package Added to Aviation's Website

A convenient dealer package is now available in an easy to download Acrobat file on Aviation's website. This includes a copy of the applicable regulations, instructions, forms, some in duplicate, to be filled and notarized. Aircraft Dealers in Washington State are required to be licensed every year by WSDOT Aviation. Dealers must submit notarized forms, a proof of a \$25000 bond and a fee in order to legally sell aircraft.

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/news/2004/AirCftDealerForms.htm>