WSDOT Managed Airports

WSDOT manages 16 airports across the state. Of the 16, nine are state-owned, three are leased, and four others operate under special use permits. It is WSDOT’s responsibility to manage these facilities in a way that addresses immediate safety issues, provides a consistent level of service and implements aviation performance objectives.

WSDOT Managed airports management principles:
- Safe, clean operating environment
- Limit risk to WSDOT
- Environmentally responsible
- Encourage opportunities for multimodal use

WSDOT Managed airport uses:
- Provide access for emergency medical operations
- Support wildland firefighting staging
- Provide transportation access to remote communities
- Provide access to recreational areas
- Enhance the overall level of safety for the state aviation system (east/west routes)
- Public safety staging
- Agricultural management staging
- Emergency management staging

Use volunteer support of the aviation community and other user groups.
Provide timely up-to-date information on Aviation’s website and through published NOTAMs.

WSDOT Managed Airports

WSDOT manages 16 airports across the state. Of the 16, nine are state-owned, three are leased, and four others operate under special use permits. It is WSDOT’s responsibility to manage these facilities in a way that addresses immediate safety issues, provides a consistent level of service and implements aviation performance objectives.

WSDOT Managed airports management principles:
- Safe, clean operating environment
- Limit risk to WSDOT
- Environmentally responsible
- Encourage opportunities for multimodal use

WSDOT Managed airport uses:
- Provide access for emergency medical operations
- Support wildland firefighting staging
- Provide transportation access to remote communities
- Provide access to recreational areas
- Enhance the overall level of safety for the state aviation system (east/west routes)
- Public safety staging
- Agricultural management staging
- Emergency management staging

Use volunteer support of the aviation community and other user groups.
Provide timely up-to-date information on Aviation’s website and through published NOTAMs.

What We Do

Airports are vital to Washington state, fueling its economy and providing critical links to the state and national transportation system. WSDOT’s mission is to enhance Washington state’s aviation system interests in ways that strengthen its transportation system, economy and quality of life. WSDOT is charged with advancing the state’s aviation interest in seven crucial areas: capacity, environment, safety, stewardship, economic vitality, mobility and land use/preservation.

Key programs include:
- Airport investments (grants & capital improvement programs)
- Aviation system and land use planning
- Aircraft registration
- Aviation emergency services
- WSDOT-managed airports

Airport Investments

Airport Aid Grant Program: Each year WSDOT’s Airport Aid Grant Program provides crucial financial assistance to many of the state’s 134 public airports. Through its grant program WSDOT Aviation leverages millions of dollars in federal grants by using a relatively minimal amount of state and local match contributions.

During the 2011-2013 biennium, WSDOT awarded about $2.1 million in state grants to 49 airports for 59 different projects. WSDOT was able to use $1.1 million in state funds to leverage over $42 million in federal grants. Any municipality, federally recognized tribe, or any person that owns an airport that is open and available for public use can apply. The maximum amount WSDOT Aviation can award to an individual sponsor in a single grant is $250,000. WSDOT requires a minimum local match of five percent. Grant program projects are in the areas of pavement preservation and improvement, safety, maintenance security, and planning. For a complete list of Airport Aid Grant projects, visit: www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/Grants/default.htm

Contact Us:

Washington State Department of Transportation
Aviation Division
Arlington Office:
Arlington Office: Arlington Mailing Address (Airport registrations go here):
18204 59th Dr NE, Suite B Arlington, WA 98223 Phone: 360-651-6300
Fax: 360-651-6319

Olympia office:
7702 Terminal Street SW
Tumwater, WA 98501 Phone: 360-596-8910/8954 or 360-709-8620

February 2014
WSDOT releases statewide pavement report:

Improvement seen at larger airports, decline at smaller

Airport pavement conditions at larger Washington state airports are holding steady, while pavements at the smaller airports are declining, according to the 2013 Airport Pavement Management System (APMS) report. The APMS report assessed airport pavements using a pavement condition index (PCI) ranging from 100 to zero (best to worst).

Some of the reports key findings include:

• At the larger, federally funded airports the PCI rating has improved from 72 in 2005 to 80 in 2012.
• At the smaller, non-federally funded airports, the PCI declined 15 percent, from 78 in 2005 to 75 in 2012.
• The smaller airports, also known as non-primary, will need approximately $217 million to eliminate the backlog of major pavement projects in the next eight years.

WSDOT and consultant Applied Pavement Technologies evaluated 100 airports for the APMS. The airports not included in the study had unpaved landing areas. The five largest airports in the state provided WSDOT with their own pavement assessments.

WSDOT and the Federal Aviation Administration use the APMS to prioritize aviation related projects. This process helps including WSDOT Aviation, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and local governments better anticipate future airport development capital needs and make strategic investments to maximize financial resources.

Statewide Capital Improvement Program:

Like the highway system, Washington's system of 134 public use airports is a critical component of the state's transportation system. And, also like the highway system, constant maintenance and improvements are necessary to meet the needs and demands of the traveling public. Simply put, current aviation system needs far outweigh available funding.

The Statewide Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) tackles the challenge of targeting state and federal resources in a more strategic way by better identifying and prioritizing aviation related projects. This process helps WSDOT Aviation and local governments communicate to decision-makers the need for continued and increased investments into Washington's airport system. The program is intended to be a continuous, multi-year funding program that will assess short-term (0-5 year) and long-term airport improvement needs for Washington's airport system. The SCIP helps agencies including WSDOT Aviation, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and local governments better anticipate future airport development capital needs and make strategic investments to maximize financial resources.

News as of February 2014:

• Most of the 134 public-use airports have submitted five years of projects (2014-2018).
• WSDOT received more than 500 project requests.
• Initial, unrefined data indicates airports requesting nearly $500 million in projects.

WSDOT Aviation has updated its Airport and Compatible Land-Use Program Guidebook to better assist airports, local jurisdictions, elected officials and aviation advocates in meeting planning requirements outlined in state law:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/Planning/ACLUguide.htm

Aviation System and Land Use Planning

Aviation system planning: Washington’s aviation system is served by a diverse mixture of airports ranging in size from small back-country airports to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, the state's busiest commercial airport. The system is comprised of both publicly and privately owned airports, which are conveniently located to meet a full range of transportation needs for commercial, business, personal, recreation, training and medical emergencies.

With significant change expected in coming years, WSDOT Aviation conducts long-term planning to face the challenge of maintaining and improving our aviation system for the future. There is a growing recognition that Washington’s network of 134 public use airports need to be managed as an integrated system, to more strategically invest the public resources necessary to preserve future aviation capacity. It is the state’s role to guide development of a coherent statewide strategy to ensure that adequate aviation capacity exists to accommodate projected growth.

Aviation land use planning: One of the main challenges facing aviation today is the encroachment of incompatible land uses near and around airports. To meet this challenge, WSDOT Aviation has developed the Airport Land Use Compatibility Program. The program objectives are to:

• Ensure the functions and values of airports are protected and enhanced statewide.
• Assist towns, cities and counties in meeting update deadlines for comprehensive plans and development regulations.
• Formally consult with municipalities and counties in the process of developing comprehensive plans and development regulations.

Aircraft Registration

Washington state law requires aircraft owners to register with WSDOT Aviation every January. Aircraft registration fees go directly to support WSDOT Aviation’s airport preservation, and improvement programs, education outreach, and air search and rescue operations.

Registration is easy with three convenient payment options: online, by mail or in person. To register, visit: www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation or call: (800) 552-0666.

Aviation Emergency Services

The mission of WSDOT’s Aviation Emergency Services program is to aid those who are in distress. WSDOT Aviation is tasked by the Legislature to manage all air search and rescue operations within the state as well as coordinating the use of aviation search and rescue resources. WSDOT Aviation coordinates the air search and rescue mission with federal, state, local government agencies and hundreds of dedicated volunteers.

The last system plan was completed in 2009 and is available at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/SystemPlan/

The study included a system-wide airport inventory and 25 year forecast.