



WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report August 2007

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Governor Appoints Aviation Planning Council

Governor Gregoire has announced the appointment of a ten-member Aviation Planning Council to provide recommendations on how the state should meet long-term air transportation needs to 2030. The work of the Council comprises the final, and most consequential, phase of the Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS). As stated in ESSB 5121, the Council is charged with using LATS Phases I and II findings 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; and
- Recommendations regarding the placement of future commercial or general aviation facilities to meet the need for improved aviation planning in the region.

The Council is represented by people of varying backgrounds and a broad geographical distribution across the state. They include:

- Carol Moser (Chair): Washington Transportation Commission, Richland
- John Sibold: WSDOT Aviation Director, Arlington
- Juli Wilkerson: CTED Director, Olympia
- Paul Roberts: General Public, Everett
- John Townsley: General Public, Okanogan
- Dave Fields: FAA Technical Expert, Bellevue
- Gratton Sealock (Neal): Director of Spokane International Airport, Felts Field and the Airport Business Park, Spokane

- James McNamara: Growth Management Hearings Board, Vancouver
- Penni Loomis: Washington Airport Management Association, Chattaroy
- Donald Garvett: Alaska Airlines, Mercer Island

Bowers Field Kicks off Reconstruction Project

WSDOT Aviation Construction Project Manager, Eric Johnson, attended a preconstruction meeting in Ellensburg for the airport's pavement reconstruction project. The \$1.2 million project will reconstruct aging pavements on three areas of the airport: an apron area used by Washington State Department of Natural Resources for helicopter parking, an apron area used by the airport's FBO and flight school Midstate Aviation, and taxiways that serve general aviation hangars.

WSDOT's 2005 Airport Pavement Management System update revealed that some sections of pavement that are to be reconstructed had a pavement condition index (PCI) as low as eight on a scale of 0 to 100. WSDOT Aviation is providing 2.5% funding for the airport sponsor, Kittitas County, as half of its match to Federal funds. The project will also replace the airport's inoperable VASI system with a PAPI system to provide visual guidance to pilots landing on Runway 29. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of October.

Paul Wolf Joins Aviation Team to Assist with State-Managed Airports

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation is pleased to welcome Paul Wolf as its newest temporary employee. Paul currently works in Olympia as a WSDOT Environmental Permits Specialist, but will assist Aviation with state-managed airports on a part time basis. His top priorities will be to develop and implement standards at the state-managed airports, and coordinate the development of maintenance agreements with other WSDOT regions.

Jim Scott, State Airports Maintenance Supervisor, will continue to manage the daily activities at the airports, while Paul will be responsible for capital project planning.

Paul brings to the team a wealth of knowledge in strategic planning, policy development and aviation. He has a B.S. in Aeronautical Sciences and Biology (Fisheries and Wildlife Management) from the University of North Dakota. He has also been a private pilot for several years.

Aircrews Complete Survival Training

Volunteer aircrew members recently completed survival training at Bandera State Airport. The weekend included 16 hours of classroom training and required the students to live for two nights in shelters they constructed. The training is required for all Aviation Emergency Services volunteers to ensure they are adequately prepared and equipped for the missions they perform.



“The goal of the training is give these students knowledge and experience so they can be thoroughly prepared to conquer a survival situation. We try to make it as hands on and realistic as possible with several demonstrations and opportunities for the group to actually test out equipment and techniques,” said Tom Peterson, Aviation Emergency Services Coordinator.

The next class is scheduled for October and will also be conducted at the Bandera State Airport.