



WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report September 2009

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General Aviation strikes back against *USA Today* article “Little-used Airports Cost Taxpayers Big Money”

The National Association of State Aviation Officials NASAO along with most of the General Aviation community including AAAE, AOPA, GAMA, NATA, and NBAA have responded directly to *USA Today* by sending out news releases and fact sheets to just about everybody in the media and the aviation community. Last Tuesday the President of NASAO met with *USA Today* Editorial Page Editor, Sandra Torrey. The conversation can be described as “deeply unpleasant and unsettling”, and the meeting was arranged by the Alliance for Aviation Across America. NASAO says that the editor defended her newspaper’s views and seemed to willfully ignore the facts. She made it clear that it is *USA Today*’s view that general aviation is being subsidized by airline passengers and that GA should pay user fees. *USA Today* is expected to write a follow-up editorial Thursday September 24. It will be “countered” by an opposition viewpoint, on the same page, provided by AOPA.

Comment period now underway for State-Managed Airports Handbook

The public comment period for the State-Managed Airports Handbook is now underway and will extend through October 23. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation will host a series of public meetings to receive input on the State-Managed Airports Handbook.

The handbook documents policies, performance measures, and guidelines for the maintenance and operation of the 17 state-managed airports.

The public meetings are scheduled as follows:

September 22, 2009

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

North Beach Jr/Sr High School

Library

336 State Route 115

Ocean Shores, WA 98569

September 24, 2009

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Walla Walla

WSDOT Maintenance Bldg

1210 "G" Street

Walla Walla, WA 99362

October 14, 2009

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Arlington Boys and Girls Club

18513 59th Ave NE

Arlington, WA 98223-7846

October 15, 2009

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

WSDOT Spokane HQ

First Floor

2714 N Mayfair Street

Spokane, WA

To read the handbook, or for more information on the state-managed airports, visit:

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

Local jurisdiction raise concerns over certification of aviation land use plans

Resulting from the outcome of the Long-term Air Transportation Study, WSDOT Aviation has submitted agency request legislation to improve compatible land use planning near airports in Washington State. Lack of compliance with GMA has resulted in increased encroachment throughout the airport system. The draft legislation proposes that WSDOT Aviation certify the aviation elements of comprehensive plans. Counties had objected based on the fiscal impact as well the loss of local control. As a result WSDOT is revising the draft proposal to eliminate the certification requirement by substituting language requiring improved consultation between WSDOT, locals, and commerce. More to come.....

Airports complete projects as Fall sets in

Last week WSDOT Construction Project Manager, Eric Johnson, traveled the state visiting airports to inspect recently completed projects and meet with airport staff. Following are the airports visited:



- Bowers Field (Ellensburg) – Met with Kelly Carlson and Ken Banford to inspect their recently completed Runway 25 End Pavement Repair Project. The old slurry seal had began separating creating a FOD (foreign object debris) hazard to aircraft. The loose materials were removed by blasting with high pressure air, applying a new seal coat, and re-painting the runway numbers.
- Willard Field (Tekoa) – Met with outgoing airport manager Jerry Squibb and his replacement City Councilman, David Tysz to inspect their project that repaired a ten foot section of asphalt across the width of the runway. The pavement section was failing due to a collapsed culvert under the runway. Last fall the City had made emergency repairs by placing cold mix asphalt over the section. This summer they cut out the old asphalt, removed the base and sub base materials, and replaced with all new materials.
- Sand Canyon Airport (Chewelah) – Met with Airport Manager Lee Dorrance to inspect a runway seal coat project completed last fall and items completed with a security grant this spring including additional ramp lighting and ‘Aircraft Only’ access signs around the airport.
- Colville – Met with City Engineer, Brent Rasmussen to discuss the City’s current public outreach process to gauge the community’s interest in siting a new Colville Airport as well as the importance of beginning coordination efforts with the FAA.
- Ione Municipal – Met with past Airport Manager, David Law to inspect the recently completed Pavement Markings Project. The project corrected the airport’s existing non-standard markings.
- Davenport Municipal – Inspected the completed Partial Parallel Taxiway and Hangar Access Taxilanes Project.
- Wilbur Municipal – Delivered a grant sign to Mayor Bob Wyborney. Discussed the Town’s upcoming 2010 project to complete the construction of a full length parallel taxiway. The Town is in the process of completing a runway reconstruction/extension project and partial parallel taxiway construction project funded with ARRA funds (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act).
- Mansfield – Conducted a general airport inspection that revealed several items that the Port of Douglas needs to address and could seek WSDOT funds to complete.

Items include the need to relocate threshold lights adjacent to the displaced threshold, apron pavement maintenance, and new markings.

- Waterville – Inspected the just completed Taxiway Reconstruction Project. Identified the need for taxiway reflectors and a hold sign to complete the project. The Port of Douglas may seek additional grant funds for these items.
- Pangborn Memorial (Wenatchee) – Met with airport staff, Tina Flohr and Ron Russ.