

WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report March 2010

In this issue . . .

[Red Bull air races coming to Seattle?](#)

[Kennewick airport to remain open](#)

[Senate unanimously passes AIP/FAA reauthorization bill](#)

[WSDOT planner prepares for public testimony](#)

[A new look for Woodland state airport](#)

[WSDOT Aviation 2010 registration update](#)

Red Bull air races coming to Seattle?

Director John Sibold attended an introductory meeting at the Seattle Trade and Convention Center hosted by the Seattle Sport Commission to discuss a proposal to bring the Red Bull Air Races to Seattle in summer 2012. The over-water air races are a multi-million dollar event that includes international television exposure, millions of dollars of economic impact and thousands of out-of-town visitors. The most recent race was in Barcelona, Spain, and attracted an estimated 700,000 spectators.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce interested parties, including government officials, to Red Bull representatives to discuss the concept at a high level (the event, course, hospitality, accommodations, possible time frame and other broad topics). Red Bull selects cities, such as Seattle, for the city backdrop that plays well to international television coverage. The preferred site is Elliot Bay north of the piers near the bottom of Queen Anne Hill. Meeting organizers developed a list of people who will be key to bringing this event to the region and producing a successful event for everyone involved. The first hurdle will be obtaining approval and support from the City of Seattle. Additional questions include how this could impact WSDOT highway operations, how it would affect congestion and how it would affect WSF operations.

Kennewick airport to remain open

After several years of public meetings, studies and delays, the Port of Kennewick Commission voted unanimously to keep the airport open and develop it further to become self-sustainable.

Director Sibold was invited by Port staff to testify and speak to the state's interest in the keeping the airport open as part of the state's transportation system. The airport will continue to be eligible for state airport aid to maintain airport infrastructure.

An estimated 100 attendees overwhelmingly testified in support of the airport with very little opposition. Several businesses spoke about the number of jobs they plan to bring to Kennewick as a result of the airport. Carol Moser, who chaired the Long-term Air Transportation Planning Council, highlighted the need to preserve the community's airport as an important public asset and emphasized the importance of proper land-use planning to protect the airport from incompatible land uses. The city of Kennewick had been pressuring the Port to sell the airport for other commercial development to create a new town center.

Senate unanimously passes AIP/FAA reauthorization bill

During the week of March 22, the state Senate passed its AIP/FAA reauthorization bill by unanimous consent. The House passed its version last December. Now, both bodies must go to conference to sort out the differences between the two documents. With Congress slated to begin its two-week spring vacation early next week, it is unlikely that we will see a full bill until mid-April at the earliest. The current, existing extension of AIP and FAA reauthorization expires March 31. Therefore, a three-month interim extension has already been passed by the House and is being passed by the Senate.

What is the likely outcome of a new full reauthorization?

- The bill will be only two or possibly three years in duration.
- AIP will be about \$4 billion the first year and will increase by \$100 million each year thereafter.
- The State Apportionment formula will probably remain the same as will the \$150,000 Non-Primary Grant for General Aviation airports in the NIPAS.
- Funding for Next Gen will increase dramatically.
- There will be no major new user fees. But there will be about a dozen small new user fees for obtaining a pilot's certificate, filing a medical, obtaining a vanity N number, etc.
- Fuel taxes will increase from 19.3 to 24.1 cents per gallon for Avgas and from 21.8 cents to 36 cents for Jet Fuel.
- There will be a required State/Local "match," but it is unclear whether it will be 5 or 10 percent
- There may be a compromise on the PFC amount. The House proposes \$7, while the Senate retains \$4.50
- There may be a compromise on ARFF staffing requirements. The House forces the FAA into rulemaking, the Senate does not.
- There may be a compromise on *NEW* State Block Grants. The House remains silent, the Senate authorizes three more.

WSDOT planner prepares for public testimony

WSDOT planner Carter Timmerman prepared public testimony and supplemental comment regarding the Shelton Hills development, in Shelton Washington. In February, the City of Shelton allowed Hall Equity Group to present material addressing concerns posed by citizens and agencies. Their presentation included both a safety study and noise study conducted by independent consulting firms. WSDOT reviewed the materials and found deficiencies in the documentation, data, methodology, analysis and conclusions reached. In airport noise study, WSDOT planners noted that the duration of the noise study was only seven days; most noise studies are conducted for a longer time period to better reflect the airport operations and activity level. The study was conducted during poor weather conditions that were not conducive to VFR aircraft operations. The jet aircraft used during the analysis flew a non typical traffic pattern. WSDOT will testify April 5, 2010 and recommend denial of the proposed rezone.

A new look for Woodland State Airport

Crews installed a new cantilever gate and fencing at the Woodland State Airport. Owl Fencing of Enumclaw contracted the work and finished the job April 1, 2010. Improved airport signage will be next and will add pedestrian access instruction. Future non-aviation-related access will be eliminated by closing the Sandal Wood Road to unauthorized access. Airport Manager Paul Wolf is working out details with the City of Woodland's Public Works Director and WSDOT's Southwest Region Property Management Office.



WSDOT Aviation 2010 registration update

WSDOT Aviation opened 2010 Aircraft Registration five months ago. Since that first renewal of the 2010 registration year, we have had more than 5,699 aircraft complete their registration.

As of April 2, 2010, only 159 previously registered aircraft remained unregistered with WSDOT Aviation for their 2010 Registration Year. We have received 60 registration payments along with their penalty payment for 2010.