



WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report June 2007

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Reminder: Submit Your Airport Aid Grant Applications by June 15

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation reminds airport sponsors that June 15, 2007 is the deadline to submit applications for the next round of Local Airport Aid grants. This is the first round of grants that WSDOT Aviation is offering during the 2007-2009 biennium.

To apply, use the new and improved [online grant application form](#) , which allows you to fill in information electronically. Since a signature is required, you will still have to print, sign and mail the form with supporting documentation. WSDOT will also continue to accept handwritten applications.

WSDOT also reminds airport sponsors with existing open grants that the close-out deadline is June 29, 2007. Sponsors should be making significant progress on their projects to meet this deadline.

Contact your designated WSDOT Airport Construction Project Manager, [Eric Johnson](#) at (360) 651-6303 or [Jeff Kvamme](#) at (360) 651-6304 to discuss proposed projects and receive assistance with applications. Find your designated airport contact at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/NeedGrantAssistance.htm .

More information on the Local Airport Aid Grant Program is available at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/grants/default.htm.

Wreckage of Missing Aircraft Located Near Quilcene

On June 7 and 8 WSDOT Aviation's Tom Peterson assisted with the search for a missing Cessna 210 aircraft with a married couple from Lopez Island on board. The aircraft took off on June 7 from Lopez Island and was headed to California. Family members in California reported the pilot and passenger missing, thus igniting the search effort. Teams used radar information to pinpoint the area near Quilcene, WA as the focus of the search. WSDOT and the King County Sheriff's Office used the Guardian Two helicopter to comb that area, and ended up locating the wreckage around 2 p.m. The pilot and passenger did not survive the crash.

Privatization of Flight Service Stations Hits Turbulence

The FAA told Bloomberg News Service that it withheld \$3 million in payments to Flight Service Station (FSS) contractor Lockheed Martin in the first quarter because of poor performance. "There's evidence of dropped calls and pilots not getting information," said FAA Administrator Marion Blakey. "There are penalties in the contract and we'll apply them." In October 2005 Lockheed took over the 58 previously FAA-run FSS facilities under a \$1.7 billion award. Since the beginning of this year pilots have complained about being on hold for extended times while waiting for briefings -- in fact, several pilots recently told AVweb that they had to wait on hold for an hour or more to get a preflight weather briefing. FAA spokesman Paul Takemoto is unsure if more penalties are in store for Lockheed Martin in the second quarter, which is when pilot complaints have increased sharply. Lockheed spokesman Keith Mordoff told Bloomberg that Lockheed has taken steps to fix "intermittent service issues" while it is consolidating the FSS facilities. While the State of Washington has not received complaints, we will continue to monitor the situation and provide feedback to the FAA.

Recruitment Deadline Passes for Aviation Planning Council

The June 25 deadline has come and gone for those interested in participating in WSDOT Aviation's early recruitment process for the Governor's Aviation Planning Council. The Council is set to convene during the third and final phase of LATS. While members will be selected solely by the Governor, WSDOT is assisting in the process by gathering early applications and submitting recommendations based on criteria such as aviation knowledge, geographic location, and the ability to make a two year time commitment.

WSDOT Aviation to Partner with AOPA and NASAO on Development of Planning Guidance Materials

Following on the success of a joint panel discussion held in March 2007, WSDOT Aviation is again joining with the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) to support airport land use compatibility planning. The latest effort is focused on providing guidance material that will help citizens understand and get involved in the planning process. Topics will include an introduction to the planning process and identification of critical decision

points. The handbook will also describe tools, strategies and skills that contribute to effective public participation. The first draft is scheduled for release at NASAO's Fall Conference, to be held in Portland, OR in September 2007.