

## WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report February 2009

---

### [States Oppose Proposed General Aviation Security Programs](#)

### [WSDOT Updates Methow Airport Layout Plan](#)

### [FAA Sets Criteria for High Priority Stimulus Projects](#)

### [Aviation Planning Council Releases Alternative Strategies for Public Input](#)

## **States Oppose Proposed General Aviation Security Programs**

State aviation officials strongly oppose the proposed Transportation Security Administration (TSA) aircraft and airport security programs targeting general aviation. In a letter to the Secretary of Homeland Security state aviation officials highlighted the following concerns:

- The proposal does not provide any specific evidence of any genuine security threat by these aircraft and airports.
- Without any evidence of a problem, TSA proposes a myriad of complex, burdensome and expensive solutions.
- May assume statutory authority that TSA does not possess.
- Proposed rules may be unconstitutional.
- Fails to recognize a wide range of existing security enhancements (regulatory, statutory and voluntary across the entire general aviation community since 911.)
- Arbitrarily chooses the 12,500 pound weight as the entry level for these proposed rules.

It is the position of State Aviation Officials that proposed rule making initiates unnecessary unfunded federal mandates on individual aircraft owners and operators, airports and their state and local operators. The Secretary of Homeland Security is urged to retract this terribly flawed proposal in its entirety. If after a period of appropriate internal review TSA decides that there is a genuine need to address the security posture of these aircraft and airports they are encouraged to establish a rule making committee comprised of experienced and knowledgeable General Aviation professionals to assist TSA in promulgating future regulations.

## **WSDOT Updates Methow Airport Layout Plan**

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation is developing an updated Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and Narrative Report for the Methow Valley State Airport (S52), located in Winthrop, Washington. Methow's previous ALP was completed in 1995.

WSDOT is conducting the project in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Seattle Airports District Office. The FAA is funding 95 percent of the \$67,000 ALP project, and WSDOT is contributing a five percent local match. Methow's updated ALP will define the short-term and long-term needs of the airport through a comprehensive evaluation of airport conditions and FAA design standards. The ALP will provide specific guidance in making necessary improvements to maintain a safe and efficient airport that is economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable.

### **Project Goals:**

- Maintain an open public participation process.
- Provide an updated assessment of existing facilities and activity.
- Forecast airport activity measures (based aircraft, aircraft operations, etc.) for the current 20-year planning period.
- Examine previous ALP recommendations to meet the current and projected airport facility needs consistent with FAA design standards.
- Determine current and future facility requirements for both demand-driven development and conformance with FAA design standards.
- Update/prepare the airport layout plan, airspace plan, and land-use plan for the airport to reflect updated planning.
- Develop an Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP) that will prioritize improvements and estimate project development costs and funding eligibility for the 20-year planning period.

## **FAA Sets Criteria for High Priority Stimulus Projects**

Because of the lead time associated with the consideration and passage of the legislation, FAA has been able to identify a national pool of candidate projects that greatly exceed the stimulus funding available. Regional/District offices will review the project listings and, to the extent funding is available, confirm the highest priority of the projects on the listing that they expect to fund and that can meet the timelines. Each project identified will indicate whether it can be obligated in the 120-day period or by the end of the current fiscal year. Nationally, the FAA must award 50% of all funding within 120 days. *Ready to go projects* are being defined by the following criteria:

- Has an environmental determination;
- Has received requisite airspace approvals;
- Appears on the airport's approved Airport Layout Plan;

- If required, has a completed FAA-approved benefit-cost analysis;
- Has design (plans and specification documentation) substantially complete;
- Will be bid prior to the time of Grant Offer;
- Will be able to issue a Notice to Proceed within 30 calendar days of Grant Offer;
- Is projected to have construction completed no later than February 16, 2011; and
- Has the Sponsor's certification as to bid, Buy American waivers, Notice to Proceed, and certain certifications required.

### **Aviation Planning Council Releases Alternative Strategies for Public Input**

Over the last several months the Aviation Planning Council has been developing alternative strategies to address shortfalls and gaps in the air transportation system. Strategies were developed around three key themes, which included capacity, land use and stewardship. Strategies cover a range of options under each of the key themes including strengthening growth management legislation to address incompatible land uses around airports, using and expanding existing airports capacity, and using performance objectives to more effectively target airport improvements.

To gather public input the Aviation Planning Council released the draft alternative strategies for a forty-five (45) day public comment period from March 4, 2009 to April 17, 2009. During the public comment period the Council will hold two regional workshops and numerous summary briefings around the state. The regional public workshops will be held on:

March 24, 2009  
 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Tyee Center 5757  
 Littlerock Road SW

Tumwater, WA  
 March 26, 2009  
 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Ramada Inn  
 8909 West Airport Drive  
 Spokane, WA

Public comments will be utilized by the Council to develop final recommendations to the governor, legislature, Transportation Commission and regional transportation planning organizations. Final recommendations are scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2009.