



## WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report October 2006

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## **Washington State Department of Transportation Releases Phase I Report for Long-Term Air Transportation Study**

What do we have, what do we need and how will we get there in terms of air transportation capacity in Washington State? Those are the questions that prompted the state legislature to initiate the Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS) in 2005. Recently WSDOT unveiled the [LATS Phase I Facility and Capacity Report](#), which marked the end of Phase I and answered the question “Does the existing system meet air transportation needs in Washington State?”

Airports are vital transportation assets and economic engines on a local, statewide and national level. Proper planning is necessary in order to ensure we are using these airport assets strategically and to their fullest potential. Planning is also necessary to anticipate and handle threats to airports such as inadequate funding, growth in population and demand, and local land use conflict. LATS serves as a planning strategy to examine our state’s current aviation system, determine needs, and ensure it is equipped to meet future demand.

Phase I of LATS is the first step of this strategy, presenting a snapshot of our state’s existing 140 public use airports and measuring current system capacity. The Phase I Report provides highlights of key findings that illustrate strengths and weaknesses of the state’s current aviation system. For example, the assessment revealed that, overall, commercial and regional airports have strong results for meeting performance objectives on almost all measures established. However, there are six airports in the state where airfield capacity is an issue, and many airports are reaching capacity for aircraft storage.

To review the complete Phase I results and learn more about the assessment, please read the [Phase I Report](#) (pdf 5 mb).

Phase II of LATS is currently underway and includes long-range activity forecasts, an air cargo assessment, commercial service market analysis, and a high-speed passenger rail evaluation. Information gathered in Phases I and II will be used by a governor-appointed planning council in Phase III to make recommendations regarding the state's aviation system.

More information about LATS is available at: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/LATS.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/LATS.htm).

## **Learn How to Protect and Preserve Airport Pavement**

Airport sponsors and aviation agencies are responsible for a large capital investment at airports - the pavement infrastructure. Careful pavement management is becoming increasingly important as airport pavements are aging and the competition for pavement rehabilitation funding is growing.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation invites you to learn more about how to preserve your airport pavement today and prevent costly reconstruction projects in the future. This fall WSDOT Aviation is hosting two pavement management workshops featuring industry expert Maggie Covalt from Applied Pavement Technology.

### **When and Where?**

Tuesday, October 24, 2006  
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
WSDOT Transportation Building  
Shaman Conference Room, 2nd Floor  
310 Maple Park Avenue SE  
Olympia WA 98504-7300  
Tuesday, November 7, 2006

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Grant County International Airport  
Conference Room  
7810 Andrews St. N.E.  
Moses Lake, WA 98837

### **What Can You Expect to Learn?**

- Learn about pavement distress types/severity combinations that warrant immediate action.
- Receive guidance on how to comply with pavement law.
- Get an overview of the pavement management process and the Pavement Condition Index (PCI).

- Hear how an airport sponsor can use its individual airport report to plan for pavement maintenance and rehabilitation projects.

### **RSVP Today**

You can reserve your spot at one of these free workshops by contacting WSDOT's Eric Johnson at (360) 651-6303 or at [johnsel@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:johnsel@wsdot.wa.gov) . Though helpful for planning purposes, reservations are not required to attend.

### **Ground Water Monitoring Wells Complete at Skykomish State Airport**

In October, two monitoring wells were installed on Skykomish State Airport to help the City of Skykomish determine the level and flow of ground water over the next six months. The information gathered from the wells will help decide whether a sewage treatment drain field for the town can be built on or near the airport property. The wells were bored using a state of the art ultrasonic boring machine that drilled down to 65 feet. A two inch PVC pipe was installed and capped at ground level to allow monitoring.

### **State Airports Closing for the Season**

In October several state-operated airports closed for the season. Recent rain has begun to soften the runway surfaces, creating a safety hazard for aircraft using the airports. Snow levels are also inching lower, which makes the safety risks even greater. To find out which state-operated airports are currently closed, please visit: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/Airports/Amenities.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/Airports/Amenities.htm).

### **Vashon Island Phase I - Airport Layout Plan Receives Community Support**

King County Airport District No. 1 Commissioners (Vashon Municipal Airport) hosted a public meeting in October to present preliminary technical evaluations prepared by the airport's consultant, Century West Engineering. The meeting also served to solicit public input and discussion with the Airport District commissioners. It included a presentation of key information, followed by an informal question and answer session. Construction Project Manager, Eric Johnson, represented WSDOT at the meeting.

The Vashon Municipal Airport is a small general aviation airport that serves island residents and visitors, providing an important emergency transportation link with the mainland for both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. The airport's lighted emergency only helipad is used regularly by Seattle hospital medical-evacuation helicopters.

The Airport District, with the financial assistance of the Federal Aviation Administration and WSDOT Aviation, has undertaken the planning project to evaluate facility needs at Vashon Municipal Airport. The primary focus of the planning project is the evaluation of improvements related to the continued safe operation of the airport. Phase II of the Airport Layout Plan will produce a detailed set of drawings and capital improvement plan for the airport.