

WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report January 2008

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Aviation Rings in New Year, Honors Employees

WSDOT Aviation staff recently gathered at the Hawthorne Inn and Suites in Arlington to conduct its end-of-the-year meeting and recognize employees who have made outstanding contributions to the organization. Aviation Director, John Sibold, led staff through an overview of 2007 accomplishments, as well as through individual program goals for the 2007-2009 biennium.



Employees who were recognized included:

- Tracy Paul, WSDOT Aviation Registration Program Manager, for her outstanding customer service.

- John Shambaugh, WSDOT Aviation Senior Planner, for his success in implementing Phase III of the Long-Term Air Transportation Study.
- Kerri Woehler, Aviation Planner, for her ability to successfully manage several Aviation programs.

Aviation also bid farewell to Jim Scott, former State-Operated Airports Maintenance Supervisor, who is leaving the position to pursue other interests. Scott's replacement will be announced early in 2008.

Optimistic Outlook for 2008 Airport Construction Projects

Despite the frigid temperatures outside, WSDOT Aviation is looking ahead to a busy summer full of airport construction projects. In July 2007, during the first round of Local Airport Aid Grants in the 07 – 09 biennium, WSDOT awarded a number of grants for design, engineering, and environmental in anticipation of constructing the projects in 2008. Construction Project Managers, Eric Johnson and Jeff Kvamme have been working closely with airport sponsors to provide technical assistance and encourage their consultants to stay on schedule.

Over the past couple of weeks WSDOT Aviation has been seeing many indications that the projects are on track and will be ready to proceed with construction once the weather warms up. Projects have already had bid openings, are currently out to bid, or are nearing completion of their plans and specifications.

Local Airport Aid Grant applications will be solicited for the next round of funding in February and March, with grant awards in April.

The following is a partial list of projects that we anticipate will be completed in this upcoming construction season:

- Pru Field (Ritzville) – Obstruction clearing and PAPI system
- Desert Aire – Reconstruction of south parallel taxiway
- American Lake Seaplane Base (Lakewood) – Seaplane dock and gangway
- Cle Elum Municipal Airport – Runway reconstruction
- Ocean Shores Municipal Airport – Paving of existing turf parallel taxiway
- Colville Municipal Airport – Slurry seal and marking of all pavements
- Sand Canyon Airport (Chewelah) - Slurry seal and marking of all pavements
- Ferry County/Curlew Lake (Republic) – Install seaplane docks
- Moses Lake Municipal - Slurry seal and marking of all pavements
- Omak Municipal Airport – Slurry seal and marking of taxiway and ramps
- Orcas Island Airport – Reconditioning of helipad concrete and lights
- Pangborn Memorial (Wenatchee) – Installation of approach lighting system

Spokane County to Revisit Study Area Boundaries

Spokane County will convene its JLUS technical committee later this month to discuss proposed study area boundaries. Comments from several committee members, including WSDOT Aviation, indicated concern that Spokane International Airport was not included in the proposed boundary. The initial boundary surrounded Fairchild Air Force Base, but excluded Spokane International. WSDOT Aviation emphasized in its comments the importance of including both airports in the analysis in order to adopt a comprehensive approach to land use planning issues in the area. Spokane County's policy board will meet in late January to review the proposed boundary and make final recommendations to the county commissioners.

WSDOT Briefs Transportation Commission on Aviation Projects

Earlier this month, WSDOT Aviation had an opportunity to speak with the Washington Transportation Commission regarding aviation planning projects and studies underway for 2008. In 2008, there are six major initiatives that WSDOT Aviation will be working on. Three projects will be up for public and stakeholder review. The total project list includes:

Airport Stormwater Management Guidance

WSDOT Aviation Services is in the process of developing an airport stormwater guidance manual in coordination with WSDOT Environmental Services Office. The manual is intended to provide statewide guidance on addressing hazardous wildlife attractants near airport. The manual, also referred to as the *Airport Runoff Manual* (ARM), is an addendum to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Highway Runoff Manual (HRM) (WSDOT 2006a). Public comment and review is scheduled to occur in spring 2008.

Airports & Compatible Land Use Guidebook Update

WSDOT Aviation is nearing completion of an update to its *Airports & Compatible Land Use* guidebook. The updated guidance, will serve as the cornerstone of WSDOT's land use compatibility technical assistance program. The guidelines provide a step by step approach to assist local jurisdictions and airports on airport land use compatibility issues adjacent to airports through the use of best management practices. Public comment and review is scheduled to occur in spring 2008.

WSDOT-Managed Airports: System Assessment and Strategic Plan

WSDOT Aviation recently conducted an assessment of its 17 state-operated airports to determine their role within the transportation system and actions needed to address aviation facility considerations to address future needs. The study will assist WSDOT in developing policies, standards and operating procedures for the airports as well as standardizing operating agreements and maintenance procedures for the facilities. Public comment and review is scheduled to occur in spring 2008.

WSDOT's Airport Information System

WSDOT's *Airport Information System* is a web-accessible program that provides airport representatives and members of the public with information about Washington's air transportation system. The purpose of the update is to empower citizen groups, elected officials and public agencies (local, regional, state and federal) to use the Web site to view documents, create reports and find the information they need to address air transportation. The program will be released in three phases, beginning in February 2008. A training plan, currently under development, will be initiated in spring 2008 to educate airport sponsors and other interested stakeholders about use of the system.

Washington Long-Term Air Transportation Study, Phase III

In 2005, Governor Gregoire signed into law Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5121, which authorized a long-term air transportation planning study for general aviation and commercial airports statewide. The study is in its third and final phase with appointment of a 10-member Aviation Planning Council by the Governor. The project is budgeted to occur over an 18-month period, with a total of ten Aviation Planning Council workshops/meetings. An extensive public outreach program has also been developed, which will include two statewide E-Town Hall meetings, statewide survey and regional meetings to engage stakeholders and solicit public comments. The council will begin its review in February 2008 and is required to make recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, RTPOs and Transportation Commission by July 2009.

Aviation Planning Council to Meet February 7 in Seattle

On February 7, 2008 members of the Governor-appointed Aviation Planning Council will meet for the second time to continue work on the final phase of the Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS).

The meeting will take place at the Museum of Flight, 9404 East Marginal Way South, Seattle, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The planning council will receive an overview on planning for the statewide aviation system, and participate in a panel discussion with experts from the Federal Aviation Administration, Washington Transportation Commission, and Community, Trade and Economic Development. The council will also review and discuss key findings from LATS Phases I and II.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The Aviation Planning Council, as directed by state legislation (ESSB 5121), was appointed by Governor Gregoire in July 2007. The council's purpose is to use LATS Phases I and II findings, and include public input, to determine:

- How best to meet commercial and general aviation capacity needs.
- Which regions of the state are in need of improvement regarding the matching of existing, or projected, airport facilities and the long-range capacity needs at airports within the region expected to reach capacity before 2030.

- Recommendations regarding the placement of future commercial or general aviation facilities to meet the need for improved aviation planning in the region.

More information about LATS is available at: www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/LATS.

Paul Wolf Joins Aviation Staff on February 1

Paul Wolf will start work on February 1 as a new Aviation Construction Project Manager, with the primary responsibility of supervising the 16 state-operated airports. Paul replaces Jim Scott, who left after five years of service.

In his new role with Aviation, Paul's first priority will be to implement new maintenance standards and contracts at the state-operated airports. He will also work with WSDOT crews and volunteers to maintain and improve conditions at the facilities. Additionally, Paul will have responsibility for administering grants at a number of airports across the state.

Paul is a pilot and a graduate in Aeronautics Studies and Fisheries and Wildlife Management from the University of North Dakota. He most recently worked for WSDOT Environmental Services as the environmental liaison for the Bridge and Structures Office.

Originally from the Skagit Valley, Paul feels fortunate to be working closer to home - especially in the field of aviation. WSDOT Aviation is excited to have someone with Paul's experience and looks forward to his success.

Beginning February 1, if you have comments or suggestions regarding the state-operated airports, Paul can be reached by email at WolfP@wsdot.wa.gov or by phone at 360-651-6313.