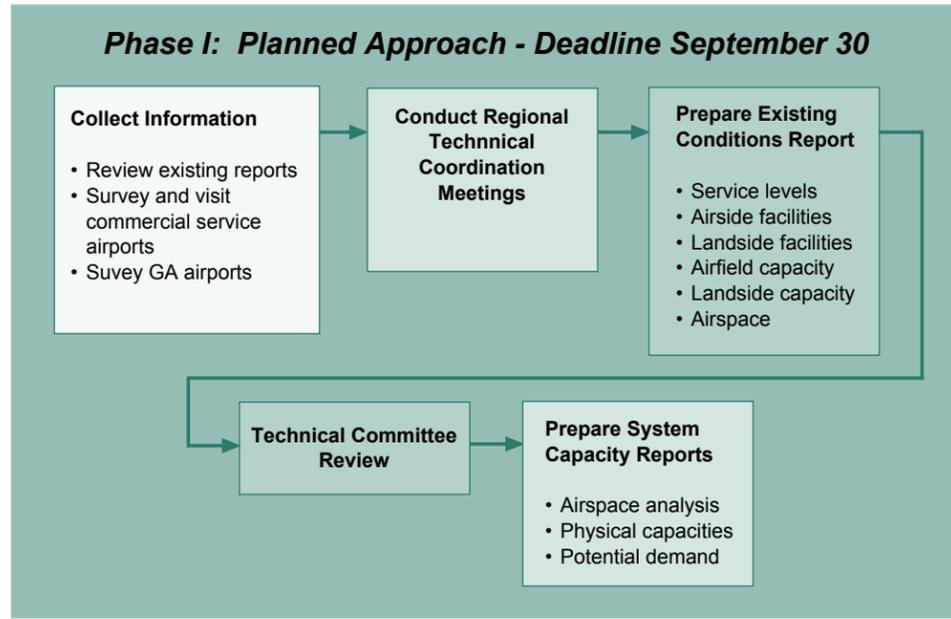


Phase I LATS Study Foundation



During Phase I, the project team will be working hard to update airport inventory and evaluate existing capacity. This information will establish a solid foundation for demand forecasts and market analyses which will be conducted in Phase II.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Visit the LATS Web site at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/news/2005/AirTranspStudy.htm> or contact Nisha Hanchinamani, WSDOT Aviation Communications, at: hanchin@wsdot.wa.gov



WSDOT Aviation
PO Box 3367
Arlington, WA 98223

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Phase I of Long Term Air Transportation Study Takes Off

Last year the Washington State Legislature directed WSDOT to conduct a first-of-its-kind study to examine the state's aviation needs and develop a plan for long-term strategic investments in the system. This three year comprehensive airport system study, known as the Long-term Air Transportation Study (LATS), will guide and coordinate future investments in Washington's public use airports. LATS is funded primarily by tuhe Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), with supporting funds from the WSDOT Multimodal Fund.

LATS will be conducted in three phases. Phase I will include an intensive technical airport inventory and capacity assessment that provides a "snapshot" of the current state of airport facilities in Washington State. During this period WSDOT will update an inventory of its existing airport facilities and evaluate the system's current capacity. As part of the process, WSDOT will provide outreach to airport managers by holding a series of statewide technical coordination meetings in late June.

Phase II of LATS will produce detailed airport activity forecasts, a market analyses of the commercial airports, a high-speed rail assessment, air cargo forecasts, future airport capacity assessment and a summary of system requirements. Phase III involves the formation of a Governor-appointed Aviation Planning Council to review Phase I and II findings. The council will use the findings to recommend long-term airport development investment priorities for Washington's airport system. The council will include public input in making final recommendations.

Public outreach will be consistent throughout each of LATS' three phases. In February 2006 WSDOT developed a draft LATS Communication Plan for public comment. After receiving comment, WSDOT finalized the plan, which is available at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/news/2005/AirTranspStudy.htm>.

LATS will also be used in state and national transportation plans such as the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) and FAA's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).

Aviation System Plan Goals of LATS*

- Maximize value and impact of public investment in the aviation system statewide.
- Meet priority needs of the aviation system, as identified in the Aviation System Strategic Plan.
- Increase consistency and collaboration between FAA, State of Washington, and local aviation policies, rules, and regulations by class of airport recognizing that different types of airports have different regulatory and policy needs.
- Assure adequate capacity to accommodate future aviation system needs, especially through airport preservation and enhancement.
- Anticipate and strategically respond to emerging aviation system trends and issues.
- Strive to maintain serviceability and fairness in current public investments in the aviation system, taking into account different classes of airports.

* Source: Strategic and Business Plan as adopted by WSDOT Aviation Advisory Committee

Long Term Air Transportation(LATS) Update

DID YOU KNOW?

Washington has 139 public use airports of varying sizes and functions, located throughout the state.

According to a 2001 economic impact study, Washington's airport system annually generates 170,000 jobs, \$4 billion in wages, and \$18.5 billion in total sales output.

At the same time, Washington's population has doubled in the last 30 years and an additional two million residents are expected by 2025.

FAA forecasts indicate that aviation activity will grow by 25%, and commercial aviation activity will grow by 42%.

Regional Technical Coordination Meetings

In June 2006, WSDOT Aviation will sponsor four regional meetings to brief airport managers about the Long Term Air Transportation Study (LATS), discuss proposed LATS System Plan Goals, share detailed information about the airport analysis and assessment, airport inventory survey, aviation grant program and the 5010 inspections that are currently underway.

Tuesday, June 20
Seattle: Boeing Field Museum of Flight Upstairs View Lounge
 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Wednesday, June 21
Chehalis City Hall
 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Monday, June 26
Spokane Airport Ramada Inn
 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Thursday, June 29
Moses Lake: Grant County International Airport
 2:00 - 4:00 pm

(Letter from John Sibold, Director, WSDOT Aviation)

Dear Neighbor:

It comes down to figuring out what we have, what we need, and how we meet the needs. Washington's system of airports provides a critical transportation link for people, goods and public services like fire, medical and search and rescue, but how can we make sure that it serves our state well into the future?

Until now, there has not been a system plan in place to identify how to maintain and manage the long-term physical needs of Washington's aviation system. The Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS) provides focused resources for us to perform an airport system study so we can develop a long-term planning strategy for Washington. This strategy will guide our future investment in the state's airport infrastructure. Armed by the solid information generated by LATS, both the FAA and our elected leaders will be better equipped to make more cost-effective decisions about airport development proposals. The study will also be helpful for future, more detailed master planning, environmental analyses or site selection studies that might be conducted if there are proposals for new airport facilities.

We need credible, objective information to make informed, balanced decisions. Right now we are busy with Phase I, and will update our inventory of Washington's airport facilities, which will include a series of four technical coordination meetings with airport managers. Phase I will be completed by September 30.

We will also make our best effort to make sure that everyone with an interest in the state aviation system has up-to-date information as our study progresses. The LATS webpage at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/news/2005/AirTranspStudy.html> is designed to serve as a tool to obtain information about the study, as well as to provide input to the project team. Nisha Hanchinamani, our Communications Manager, will also be pleased to answer any of your questions. Give her a call at (360) 651-6310, or e-mail her at hanchin@wsdot.wa.gov.

Sincerely,
 John Sibold, Director
 WSDOT Aviation

Long Range Air Transportation Study

PHASE I WHAT DO WE HAVE?	Airport inventory, capacity and airspace assessment.	Target: September 2006
PHASE II WHAT DO WE NEED?	25 year demand activity forecast and market analyses, including air cargo and high speed passenger rail assessment; future capacity analysis, summarize system requirements.	Target: July 2007
PHASE III HOW DO WE MEET THE NEEDS?	Aviation Planning Council appointed by Governor to provide recommendations for future statewide aviation needs, based on analysis and fact finding in Phases I and II.	Target: July 2009

Aviation Technical Advisory Committee

- WSDOT Aviation
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- Quad County RTPO
- Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments
- Port of Seattle/Seattle-Tacoma International Airport
- Felts Field and Spokane International Airport
- Tri-Cities Airport
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Northwest Region
- City of Yakima
- Washington State Community Trade and Economic Development
- WSDOT Rail
- WSDOT Freight Strategy & Policy

WA State Airport System Map

