



WSDOT Aviation: State of the State Briefing May 2010

FAA to partner with State on SCIP

Recently the FAA ADOs and State Directors from the Northwest Mountain Region met to discuss a standardized process for developing state capital improvement plans (SCIPs). Using state system planning resources, the FAA and states are looking for a coordinated effort to identify workable CIPs for general aviation airports. States would specifically work with airport sponsors to annually update 5-year CIPs to ensure that they align with ALPs, as well as with state and federal priorities. The result would be a greater sharing and utilization of resources to target measurable improvements in the overall system. States are currently working with the FAA on grant applications to update system plans to allow for the development of SCIPs for 2011.

Statewide aviation economic impact study

WSDOT Aviation is preparing to conduct a statewide airport economic impact study that will measure the economic value of public-use airports and examine their contribution to communities, regions and the state. We are also interested in developing an economic impact calculator for each airport. The calculator will allow communities and airports to keep their data fresh and to conduct what-if analyses to address potential changes in business conditions at an airport and in their community. The last Airport Economic Study was completed in 2001 and found that airports in the system generated 171,311 jobs, more than \$4 billion in wages and exceeded \$18.5 billion in annual sales output statewide. For more information, contact John Shambaugh, Senior Aviation Planner at 360.651.6306 or shambaj@wsdot.wa.gov.

Airports and Compatible Land Use Program Guidebook Update

WSDOT Aviation's Airport Land Use Compatibility Technical Assistance Program provides resources and uses a cooperative approach to work with airports, communities, planning organizations and local decision makers to set a policy direction for the aviation system. The objective is to ensure the viability and adequacy of air transportation for the state and its citizens. WSDOT Aviation is updating its Airport and Compatible Land Use Program Guidebook to better serve airports, local jurisdictions, elected officials and aviation advocates. The guidebook will rely strongly on graphics and visuals to communicate concepts and practices in a universal, user-friendly manner. WSDOT will invite the public to comment on the updated guidelines via phone, mail or e-mail. WSDOT Aviation intends to release the updated guidebook in July 2010. For more information, contact Carter Timmerman, Associate Planner, at 360.651.6312 or timerc@wsdot.wa.gov.

Airport Aid Grant Program

Each year WSDOT's Local Airport Aid Grant Program provides financial assistance to many of the state's 138 public airports. During the first round of 2009-2011 biennium grants in July 2009, WSDOT awarded \$900,000 to 35 airports for 41 different projects. WSDOT Aviation used approximately \$288,682 to leverage \$11.2 million in federal funds, bringing the total to more than \$12.6 million. In April 2010, WSDOT solicited applications from airport sponsors for its second round of 2009-2011 biennium grants and received 54 applications requesting more than \$2.6 million. While the exact amount of funding available is yet to be determined, WSDOT anticipates awarding up to \$900,000 in grants to qualifying airports. Grant award announcements will be made the end of May. For more information, contact Eric Johnson, Construction Project Manager, at 360.651.6303 or johnsel@wsdot.wa.gov.



WSDOT State-managed airports

WSDOT Aviation manages 17 state airports with a 2009-2011 biennium maintenance and capital improvement operating budget of \$331,000. State-managed airports are typically used for emergency landings, staging for forest fire-fighting, emergency medical evacuations, access to remote communities, recreation, and flight-training purposes. WSDOT conducts regular maintenance throughout the year. Recent developments for state airports include the development of the State Managed Airport Handbook. The handbook establishes performance measures and guidelines for the maintenance, construction and operation of state-managed airports. Additionally, policy development is being conducted on through-the-fence operations and airport access user fees. For more information, contact Paul Wolf, Construction Project Manager, at 360.651.6313 or wolfp@wsdot.wa.gov.

Aircraft registration and delinquent accounts

WSDOT Aviation registers approximately 5,000 aircraft annually with an average of less than 2.5 percent delinquent. To date, 251 aircraft registrations remain outstanding for the 2006 through 2009 registration years, including penalties. In November 2009, Aviation launched a collection enforcement project to bring 364 delinquent aircraft registrations current. Aviation used a series of telephone calls, emails, internet searches, cross directories and a return receipt registered letter sent to each aircraft owner. Aviation's collection enforcement is now moving to the next step for collection by WSDOT. For more information, contact Tracy Paul, Customer Service, at 360.651.6300 or paultl@wsdot.wa.gov.

Washington State Airport Information System

The Airport Information System was initiated in 2008 for the purpose of keeping a database of accurate, up-to-date information about Washington's air transportation system accessible to WSDOT staff, airport sponsors and the FAA. The information is used to support numerous WSDOT programs, including the Airport Aid Grant Program, the Washington Aviation System Plan and the Airport Land Use Compatibility Program. The information provided by airports allows WSDOT to accurately describe Washington's air transportation system and communicate aviation needs to communities, local elected officials, the state Legislature and the FAA. As a condition for grant eligibility, airport sponsors are asked to update their information annually on the Airport Information System database.

Budget and finance

The Aviation budget for the 2009-2011 biennium totals \$8,128,000; of this, state funds make up \$6,009,000 and federal funds account for \$2,150,000. Looking forward to the 2011-2013 biennium, Aviation has a projected base budget of \$7,895,000 made up of \$5,745,000 in state funds and \$2,150,000 in federal funds. Aviation continues to be constrained by a decline in fuel tax revenues. In fiscal year 2009, the transfer gallons were 8.8% percent below the previous low in fiscal year 1993. There has been stabilization in the revenues and gallons, but at a much lower level than previous biennia. We do not see a significant improvement in the next fiscal year.

Work in Progress:

- Agency Request Legislation 2011
- Seattle Class B Airspace Proposal
- Harbor to Harbor Air Service
- TRB Green Energy Impacts to Aviation
- 3rd Rail Impact to Kelso Airport
- Red Bull Air Races coming to Seattle?
- Statewide airport pavement management update
- Methow Valley State runway lighting project