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Yakima to Resume Work on Airport Land Use Compatibility Planning

WSDOT Aviation met with representatives of Yakima Air Terminal/McAllister Field this week to discuss airport land use compatibility planning. Airport staff are working with the city and county to update the comprehensive plan and implementing regulations in order to provide adequate protection for the airport in balance with the community's development needs. WSDOT staff advised the group to start by identifying an airport influence area that accurately reflects the type of aviation activity occurring at the facility. An additional important first step is the development of goals and objectives for the process that are common to the stakeholders. The work will set a foundation that allows the group to work cooperatively to develop comprehensive plan policies and development regulations that protect the airport from encroachment. WSDOT will continue working with the community, providing technical assistance on aviation and land use planning issues.

NASAO Members Provide Feedback on Advocates' Guide



National Association of State Aviation Officials



*Participating in the Planning Process:
A Guide for Airport Advocates* is a
partnership project of WSDOT
Aviation, National Association of State

Aviation Officials (NASAO) and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). The new guidebook will provide resources to airport volunteers participating in the local land use planning process to protect airports from incompatible development. The guide provides a tutorial on local, state and federal responsibilities in land use and air

transportation planning and encourages advocates to adopt a proactive rather than reactive approach. NASAO members demonstrated their interest and support in the initiative this week through their response to a request for feedback. The project team will incorporate comments into the final document, which is scheduled for release in January.

The Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS), Phase III Moves Forward

Over the last month WSDOT Aviation, the FAA and consultant, SH-E, Inc. have been working on finalizing the LATS Phase III scope of work and budget. It is anticipated that the final scope and budget will be ready for submission to the FAA within the next few weeks.



WSDOT is also working towards finalizing an on-call agreement to develop information for the first Aviation Planning Council meeting scheduled for November 1, 2007. The November meeting will be the first opportunity for members of the committee to meet and discuss overall objectives of for Phase III. The meeting will be held at the Museum of Flight in Seattle, beginning at 10 a.m. All council meetings and workshops will be open to the public.

LATS was initiated by the legislature in 2005 to evaluate air transportation issues for commercial and general aviation airports statewide. High-speed rail was also evaluated as part of the study. The first phase of LATS included an assessment of existing airport facilities, air cargo, passengers, and air space capacity for general aviation and commercial airports. The second phase of the study included a market needs assessment and forecast. Both Phases I and II are complete and findings are available for review on our website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/LATS. Phase III is scheduled for completion by July 1, 2009.

Kittitas Co. Seeks Additional Comment on Housing Development Proposed Adjacent to Easton State Airport

Kittitas County held a public hearing to take additional comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) it is requiring on the proposed Marian Meadows development. The proposed site for the project is located less than one mile southeast of Easton State Airport, which is owned and operated by WSDOT Aviation. WSDOT Aviation provided comments on the EIS scope in May 2007. In that letter, WSDOT expressed concern that the proposal would allow development of incompatible land uses adjacent to the airport, and may have adverse impacts on airport operations and

quality of life. The agency recommended that airport land use compatibility be considered in the EIS. This feedback was reiterated in comments provided to the county this week. WSDOT will continue to monitor the project and provide comments to Kittitas County as appropriate.

Task Force Meets to Review Airport Stormwater Guidance

On Wednesday, September 26, the Hazardous Wildlife Attractants Task Force met to review some of the proposed best management practices (BMP) that are under development for the Airport Stormwater Guidance Manual. The meeting was attended by eight of the task force members, including representatives from the Department of Ecology and airports. Many questions were raised regarding BMP selection, cost, and airport operational design issues. Other issues



included the overall purpose of stormwater facilities for addressing water quality versus establishing wildlife habitat, and the area of influence for addressing wildlife attractants near an airport. Further discussions revealed that wildlife habitat is often an incidental impact of stormwater facilities and that no state or federal requirements exist for including wildlife habitat in their design. Next steps for the Task Force include a scheduled meeting at the end of October to review the draft guidance manual and BMPs.