



## WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report May 2011

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### WSDOT names new aviation director

A veteran of aviation, Tristan Atkins was named director of the Aviation Division at the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

“Tristan is a proven leader and brings with him great enthusiasm for our state’s aviation system,” said Secretary of Transportation Paula Hammond. “With his vast knowledge of aviation, he will be a tremendous asset to our strong team in the division and we’re excited to have him onboard.”

Atkins is a 23-year veteran of the Washington State Patrol, where he was commander of the aviation section for 10 years. And, currently, he holds the military rank of colonel, having served as an Army aviator for 28 years.

In his new role, Atkins will continue the work to better integrate aviation with the state’s other transportation modes such as highways, rail and ferries, supporting WSDOT’s overall mission of maintaining a reliable, responsible and sustainable system.

Atkins replaces retiring John Sibold and will begin Aug. 23 in the Aviation Division’s Arlington headquarters office.

Gov. Chris Gregoire recognized Atkins’ leadership skills by awarding him the 2010 Governor’s Award for Leadership in Management.

The Aviation Division is responsible for protecting and preserving the state’s [system of 138 public use airports](#). To learn more, visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation).

### Next Advisory Committee meeting for Aviation Economic Impact Study – July 12

The advisory committee for the Aviation Economic Impact Study will meet a second time in July to discuss the project’s methodology and review recent deliverables.

The Committee’s charge is to act as a sounding board to improve the project’s quality of analysis and communication. Key tasks include:

- Review and provide input into the project's data collection, economic analyses, and findings.
- Share perspectives and expertise in areas including but not limited to: the state's aviation system, airport operations, use of the airports, and economic development.
- Provide advice on how best to present and communicate project findings.

Details for meeting #2 are as follows:

July 12, 2011  
Confluence Technology Center  
Wenatchee, WA  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

## **Learn more about the 2011 Methow State Airport Improvement Projects at May 24 public meeting**

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation invites the public to a meeting to discuss the upcoming Methow Valley State Airport 2011 Airport Improvements Project.

**When:** Tuesday, May 24 / 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Where:** Winthrop Barn, 51 North Highway 20

The 2011 Methow project includes some of the following safety enhancements at the airport:

- Airport lighting improvements
- Obstruction surveying
- Obstruction removal
- Perimeter fencing
- Runway safety area grading

During the meeting WSDOT will discuss the project's scope, construction phasing, and stakeholder needs. Airport users, neighbors, and anyone interested in the project are encouraged to attend.