

## **WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report June 2010**

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### **Education Secretary visits Aviation High School near Seattle**

Recently students and officials of the Aviation High School hosted U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan on a tour to show off the alternative public high school. The school uses aviation as an incentive to teach students about math and science. Duncan spent time questioning students about their projects and drove a student designed robot.

It was clear by the Secretary's comments he recognized the success of the program in motivating students to higher education. In 2009, 73 students graduated, 94 percent of who met college readiness standards. Additionally, 100 percent met or exceeded WASL requirements, and collectively earned more than \$1.4 in scholarships. The Aviation High School is located in a temporary facility near Seattle Tacoma International Airport and is close to meeting its funding goals for new high school at the Museum of Flight scheduled to open in 2011. Aviation Director Sibold is a school board member.

### **Update on airport land use legislation**

In 2009 the Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS) identified land use encroachment as one of the most significant threats facing Washington State airports and proposed recommendations to strengthen existing land use legislation. Under current law only 30 percent of local jurisdictions have complied with GMA. During the 2010 legislative session, Senator Marr sponsored legislation working closely with WPPA to amend GMA to require protection of airports from encroachment of incompatible land uses and prohibit certain uses within the airport influence area. The bill was defeated in the House Local Government Committee as a result of opposition from the City and County Associations. Now there appears to be support from the legislature, WPPA, and WAMA to re-introduce a bill this session.

### **WSDOT planner participates in joint meeting in Arlington**

WSDOT Aviation planners participated in a joint meeting between the City of Arlington's Planning Commission and Airport Commission. The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate communication and understanding between the two different commissions. The joint meeting also proved to be an excellent opportunity to discuss the update of the Airports and Compatible land Use Guidelines. WSDOT Aviation is seeking comment on the draft and related formal consultation process. During the meeting, planner Carter Timmerman gave a presentation covering the fundamentals of land use compatibility planning. The presentation educated the airport



and planning commission members about the Washington Aviation System, obligations of the Growth Management Act and the compatibility planning process and tools. Rob Putman, Arlington Airport Manager, also provided a presentation addressing the city's current development regulations and specific compatibility challenges faced by the community.