

November 2024

## **Commercial Aviation Work Group Annual Report**

The following report is responsive to the requirement for the State Commercial Aviation Work Group to submit its first progress report by December 1, 2024, as directed in [RCW 14.40.020](#).

In July 2024, the Commercial Aviation Work Group convened to begin the process of “provid[ing] a comprehensive investigation of airport capacity in the state and the best way to address aviation needs in the context of overall state transportation needs in the next 20 years.”

The Work Group was created by the Washington State Legislature in 2023 with the passage of [ESHB 1791](#) to build upon information and input gathered by the previous Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission. In signing the bill creating the Work Group, Governor Jay Inslee directed that “the state . . . first fully consider increasing capacity at existing airports throughout the state, excluding SeaTac, before it considers siting a new airport.”

The Legislature directed that the Work Group be comprised of nineteen voting members appointed by the Governor and receive staff support from the Washington State Department of Transportation. However, as of October 3, only 13 of the 19 voting member positions on the Work Group were filled; some members have already completed their initial six-month appointment and one has resigned.

The Work Group held two meetings in 2024. The Work Group met, by hybrid in-person and online, on Thursday, July 11 at the Capital Event Center in Tumwater. Following introductions, the Work Group discussed its mission as defined by the Legislature. The membership elected an Acting Chair, took public comment, and set a second meeting for October 3. Members requested that WSDOT staff offer representatives of Joint Base Lewis-McChord an opportunity to present at the next meeting, as the Legislature directed that the Work Group prioritize consideration of “conflict[s] with the operations of a military installation” in its initial work.

On October 3, the Work Group met online. The members discussed a charter for the Work Group and recruitment of both voting and non-voting members, welcomed two new members, and took public comment. Unfortunately, JBLM representatives were not available to present at the October 3 meeting. The members voted to meet on October 29 solely to approve this required Annual Report to the Legislature.

The Work Group anticipates adopting a charter and setting a schedule of meetings and topics for 2025 at its first meeting in 2025, and looks forward to appointment of additional members by the Governor. We appreciate your trust and look forward to serving the

public and the Legislature with transparency and accountability.

Please direct questions regarding this report to:

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Respectfully Submitted by,

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Term expires

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