

Fact Sheet

OLYMPIA REGIONAL AIRPORT

Washington Department of Transportation Study and Olympia Regional Airport

The announcement of the Washington State Department of Transportation's Long-Term Air Transportation Study has generated questions in our community about future operations of Olympia Regional Airport. The study is looking at four airports, including Olympia Regional, which could relieve Seattle-Tacoma International Airport of congestion expected within the next 20 years. The public can give input to this study until April 17, 2009, at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation>.

In light of the community's concern about the state's study, the Port of Olympia provides this fact sheet to assure the community that the Port has no plans—and anticipates no proposals—to expand the airport beyond its current capabilities. Relevant points are:

- Aircraft are limited by runway length, aircraft weight, and wing and landing gear dimensions.
- The runway is not suitable for regular passenger service by B-737's and larger aircraft because the runway is too short and the planes are too heavy. (Runway is 5,501 feet long and can support a 94,000 lb. aircraft.)
- The airport is designed to accommodate 32- to 50-seat aircraft, or smaller.
- Currently, the largest airplanes that operate at the airport are 19-seat business jets. (When Big Sky was operating here, they were operating 19-seat turbo-prop aircraft.)
- Larger aircraft like B-737's could only use the airport under special circumstances and not on a regular basis.
- The Port will continue to promote utilization of its current facilities and infrastructure.

Airport Summary

The Olympia Regional Airport is located two miles south of Olympia, within the City of Tumwater, and encompasses 835 acres. Airport land uses include: general aviation, corporate aviation, commercial passenger service (although there is none at this time), aviation and non-aviation related commercial development, and aviation related and non-aviation related light industrial development. The Olympia Regional Airport is part of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).

Flight Operations

- Over the last 10 years, there have been between 66,000 and 94,000 takeoffs and landings combined per year, with a median average of 83,000. Peak use was 94,000 in 2003 and 2004. Use in 2008 was 72,000 total takeoffs and landings.
- Local operations include helicopters and fixed-wing flight training, and other passenger and cargo aircraft based in Olympia. Currently, the largest aircraft hold 19 passengers.
- There were regular commercial flights in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Recent commercial service history: Empire Airlines 1993, Harbor Airlines 1995, and Big Sky Airlines 2003/2004.

Noise Levels

- Current and projected noise levels are within FAA standards.
- Noise level contours (which are used by FAA to judge acceptable noise levels) are forecast to remain in use on Port property through 2020.

- New corporate-sized jets are quieter than older aircraft.

Annual Olympic Air Show

- Sponsored by the Olympic Flight Museum. Sanctioned by Port of Olympia.
- Enjoyed by almost 10,000 spectators Father’s Day weekend each year.

Aircraft That Typically Use the Olympia Regional Airport



Cessna 172



King Air 350



Dassault Falcon



Gulfstream V

Regional Commercial Service Aircraft Capable of Using the Olympia Regional Airport



Dornier 328 Regional Jet



CRJ 200 Regional Jet

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