

Planning for the Future

The Airport Communities Coalition was formed in 1993 in the collective belief that:

Regional public transportation needs must be resolved on a regional basis, by seeking viable, responsible solutions to problems the Puget Sound Region will face in the 21st century. Additional development of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport does not constitute a viable or responsible regional solution.

The Coalition's goals include:

1. Identifying regional transportation needs, and developing and promoting viable, responsible solutions to those needs on a regionwide and statewide basis.
2. Improving mitigation of existing Seattle-Tacoma International Airport activities in member jurisdictions.
3. Revoking the "Four-Post Plan."
4. Preventing the construction of any additional runways at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and limiting expansion at Boeing Field to prevent substantial, adverse environmental impacts.

The ACC represents hundreds of thousands of citizens concerned about air transportation in the Puget Sound Region, and is pledged to jointly, responsibly and effectively protect its member communities and enhance the quality of life of their citizens.

21st Century Solutions:

- To remain major commercial centers into the 21st Century, the Puget Sound region and Pacific Northwest need a modern, well-sited airport with considerable room to grow. Last year the Puget Sound Regional Council's Working Group located at least three sites which can support a major supplemental airport.
- Forecasts indicate that air traffic at Sea-Tac Airport will exceed the airport's efficient operating capacity around the year 2000. Initial PSRC studies indicate that a major supplemental airport with one all-weather runway can meet our regional needs through the year 2050 without a third runway at Sea-Tac.
- With the implementation of effective demand management, the diversion of non-connecting commuter operations to other airports and the development of high-speed rail serving the Puget Sound region, Sea-Tac Airport can meet capacity needs for the near term without a third runway.
- Failure to plan adequately now for future air transportation needs would limit King County's economic growth opportunities. Indecisive action to ensure the development of a supplemental airport may foreclose the Puget Sound region's ability to create a long term sensible plan for meeting its transportation needs.
- Expansion of Sea-Tac Airport will not provide adequate capacity to meet long-term needs. The FAA's 1992 study indicated that the increased capacity provided in the year 2001 by a third runway would be inadequate as early as 2010, allowing as few as nine years of added capacity.
- Even with a third runway, Sea-Tac will not meet regional bad weather flight demand.
- The proposed runway would have exorbitant costs and significant construction impacts. The Port of Seattle's own consultants indicate that of the eight options, six options range in baseline cost estimates from a minimum of a quarter of a billion dollars to as much as \$935 million dollars. These baseline cost figures do not include mitigation costs.
- Expansion of Sea-Tac Airport would harm residential neighborhoods and conflict with growth management planning in surrounding jurisdictions. Construction of a third runway would conflict with comprehensive planning by communities throughout King County.
- A new runway at Sea-Tac Airport would damage the environment. The noise, health and education effects of the proposed runway would harm many communities.
- The Port of Seattle's own consultants indicate that approximately 14 to 28 million cubic yards of fill dirt material is required for the building of the third runway. An estimated 1,500 or more truckloads of fill per day would have to be transported to the airport to deliver the required amount of fill over a four year period.
- Runway construction also would require the destruction or alteration of several acres of wetlands. The wetlands are part of the Miller Creek watershed which is a significant protected recreational and wildlife resource for the cities of Burien and Normandy Park.

For more information call 870-6541