

**City Council
AGENDA ITEM**

**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
City of Des Moines, WA**

SUBJECT: Airport Advisory Committee 2026 Workplan

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Airport Advisory Committee Workplan January 22, 2026
2. Airport Advisory Committee 2026 Workplan PowerPoint

FOR AGENDA OF:

DEPT OF ORIGIN:

Community Development

DATE SUBMITTED:

January 12, 2026

CLEARANCES:

Community Development

Purpose and Recommendation

Review and approve the Airport Advisory Committee 2026 Workplan.

Suggested Motion:

Motion: "I move to approve the Airport Advisory Committee 2026 Workplan as presented"

Background

The Airport Advisory Committee is an Ad-hoc committee created by the City Council on June 12, 2025 to address issues related to Seattle Tacoma International Airport. The Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council providing recommendations and advice on topics related to airport matters. The Committee consists of five community members, two of which serve as the City's SEA Stakeholder Advisory Round Table (StART) representatives. Committee members serve two year terms and should have a reasonable understanding of airport-related issues, or willingness to learn as necessary.

The Airport Advisory Committee has met six times to date. In addition to developing the Workplan presented, the Committee has:

- Discussed a process for responding to citizens' complaints about airplane noise.
- Made a recommendation regarding the Interlocal agreement (ILA) with the cities of Burien and SeaTac, adding legal counsel to respond to the Sustainable Airport Master Plan's (SAMP) State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) & National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

- Discussed StART activity including the Port's state legislative priorities.

Discussion

The following assumptions were used by the committee in the drafting of the workplan:

- The time period we are planning for is about one year. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIS) SEPA for the Airport's Sustainable Master Plan is scheduled to be released in early 2026, with the Final EIS in early 2027, so the focus in 2026 will be the SAMP.
- The Committee will have monthly, regularly scheduled meetings here at City Hall open to the public. The meeting agendas will typically include a review & discussion of information presented at StART meetings, StART Working Group meetings and any airport related complaints received from our citizens.
- The Committee would like to develop a survey to send out to residents of the city. This survey would be most effective if conducted in late summer or early fall.
- The Committee would like to assist in any public meeting the city holds regarding outreach related to the airport, SAMP, and associated environmental response.

The workplan includes:

1. We recognize that a healthy environment is essential to the quality of life in Des Moines. To ensure that we have a healthy environment the Committee will advocate for:
 - Expansion of the air quality monitoring system and formalizing an arrangement for permanent funding, control, and management of the system.
 - An appropriate level of funding for the ongoing study of the data collected by the air quality monitoring system.
 - The addition of a nationally recognized toxicologist(s) to the team responding to the Port's Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) SEPA Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
 - Support City response and/or comments to the SAMP Draft EIS.
2. The Airport's Part 150 Study is occurring concurrent with the SEPA for the SAMP. The Part 150 Study will determine changes to the area impacted by the sound from the Airport's operations and recommend mitigation measures in three areas, operations, sound insulation, and zoning/compatible uses. The Committee believes that the result of the 150 Study will shift the burden of mitigating the noise impacts to the surrounding communities by de-emphasizing sound insulation packages and recommending significant changes to land use designations. The Committee will:
 - Support the City, as needed, in public education efforts regarding the impacts of the airport on the Des Moines Community.

- Research mitigation measures that do not include sound insulation such as the use of eminent domain to purchase and transition affected properties to uses that can tolerate higher noise volumes and make additional mitigation recommendations.
3. The Committee is concerned that the only significant impacts noted in the SAMP NEPA are impacts on traffic. Final decision lists 10 intersections that will have “Category 1 Impacts” and none of the intersections are in Des Moines. The Committee will make recommendations to advocate for a more comprehensive traffic analysis in the SEPA process that includes impacts from WSDOT’s completed HWY 509 project
 4. The Committee believes that the projected increased operations at the Airport over the next 7 to 12 years will be at least as impactful as the 3rd runway and even more so. Towards the middle of 2026, when our citizens are more aware of the full scope of the SAMP, the Committee would like to develop a community survey to determine where the community is in terms of awareness. This will provide the Committee with an opportunity to adjust our recommendations for outreach efforts.

Alternatives

1. Approve the airport advisory committee 2026 workplan as presented.
2. Approve an amended airport advisory 2026 workplan.
3. Provide the committee additional direction on the workplan and have committee return to a future council for approval.

Financial Impact

None

Recommendation

Approve the airport advisory committee 2026 workplan as presented.