Port of Seattle

Air Mail

Published by the Port of Seattle for the neighbors of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

Winter 2010

First community workshop for tackling airport noise issues

At an upcoming kickoff meeting, Sea-Tac Airport neighbors will have an opportunity to help "scope" a new airport noise study that will include the third runway.

Participants are invited to contribute their ideas and concerns during small group break-out sessions, and get involved in and learn about the study at the first in a series of workshops, scheduled for Feb. 24, from 5 to 7 p.m., at Mount Rainier High School, 22450 19th Ave. S., Des Moines.

This study, known officially as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 150 Noise and Land-Use Compatibility Study, is a voluntary effort that looks at ways to reduce aircraft noise impacts on communities. The objectives are to determine existing noise levels, predict noise for the next five years, evaluate alternative mitigation ideas, and recommend targeted programs to minimize impacts. This will be the fourth Part 150 Study undertaken at Sea-Tac since 1985.

A Part 150 Study also enables the airport to use federal money for noise mitigation projects. It is the main vehicle the Port of Seattle uses to work with the community in creating a package of noise reduction programs.

Information sharing

The workshop on Feb. 24 will be a venue to gather and share information about the Part 150 Study, Sea-Tac's existing mitigation programs, and plans to involve the public in creating feasible noise impact recommendations and alternatives.

A major focus of the Part 150 process will be on Sea-Tac's third runway and its community impacts. Other major areas of the study will analyze sideline noise, noise reduction flight procedures, and the feasibility and potential impact of an enclosed "hush house" for engine run-ups during maintenance.

A comprehensive public information and comment process is part of the Part 150 effort. For example, at the Feb. 24 workshop you can get details about the process; opportunities and constraints; overall schedule; and the role of the Part 150 Technical Review Committee, which will review all technical information and study documents, and provide feedback.

Finding solutions

Following the Feb. 24 workshop, you are invited to participate in the solution and recommendation process through a series of additional public workshops during 2010 and 2011.

These workshops are designed to involve the most people, and bring out the most feasible recommendations possible. Each workshop will focus on a particular Part 150 Study element. Results of the workshops will be included in the study review process. Once recommendations are developed, they will be discussed at a public hearing at the end of the study.

Watch for announcements about the workshops in the *Highline Times*, *Air Mail* and on the Port of Seattle Web site. To keep up-to-date throughout the Part 150 process, visit the Port Web site at www.portseattle.org/community/environment/noise.shtml and sign up to receive e-mail updates. If you do not have computer access and want to receive notices, call (206) 787-4944.

Residents are encouraged to call the Noise Information Line at (206) 787-5393 to provide feedback, and to track flights via the WebTrak tool at www32.webtrak-lochard.com/WebTrak/sea/. WebTrak, which allows you to view nearly real-time and historical flight and noise data, was upgraded recently.

You are invited!

Sea-Tac Airport Part 150 Noise Study Workshop
Wednesday, Feb. 24, from 5 to 7 p.m.
Mount Rainier High School
22450 19th Ave. S. , Des Moines

Sign up for the Part 150 Study e-mail list at: www.portseattle.org/community/environment/noise.shtml

Air Mail is a publication about Seattle-Tacoma International Airport for neighbors and others interested in airport activities. If you have questions or comments about the publication, call Public Affairs, (206) 787-4604, write to Editor, *Air Mail*/Public Affairs, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, P.O. Box 68727, Seattle, WA 98168-0727, or send e-mail to st.laurent.m@portseattle.org.

All Port of Seattle telephone numbers, including those at Sea-Tac Airport, now have the same prefix—787. If you need to reach a specific person and don't know their extension, dial the Port's main number, 787-3000, and press 5 for a directory.

Following are ways to contact us for details on programs or projects:

Acquisition and Relocation Office:
(206) 787-6792

Noise Information Line:
(206) 787-5393 or 1-800-826-1147

Sea-Tac Airport Web Site:
www.portseattle.org/seatac/

WebTrak (flight and noise data):
www32.webtrak-lochard.com/WebTrak/sea/

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Light rail and more at Sea-Tac

Sound Transit's Link light rail made an on-time arrival at the new SeaTac/Airport Station in December 2009. The station connects to International Boulevard/City of SeaTac and the airport garage via pedestrian bridges.

The light rail trains operate 20 hours a day on weekdays, starting just after 5 a.m. (6 a.m. Sundays) and run until nearly 1 a.m. (midnight on Sunday). Tickets, passes and frequent user (ORCA) cards are available at ticket vending machines in the station. For details visit www.soundtransit.org.

Earlier in 2009, the Port of Seattle completed reconstruction of the runway closest to the terminal, and the airfield returned to three-runway operations. All air traffic was directed to the other two runways during construction. The runway reopened in late September.

Also, the Port resumed work on the new airport rental car facility, scheduled to open in 2012. Construction was suspended in late 2008 due to the credit market crisis, but restarted in 2009 as a result of positive signs in the global economy and the successful sale of revenue bonds to finance the project.

Port completes wetlands restoration

The Port of Seattle recently wrapped up the last major section of environmental mitigation related to building the third runway and other major improvements at Sea-Tac Airport over the past decade.

The five-plus-acre site is the former Des Moines Creek Nursery location on the east side of Des Moines Memorial Drive, just north of State Route 518, in the City of SeaTac.

Included were wetland restoration; wetland and riparian enhancement and buffer restoration with more than 13,000 new native trees and shrubs; enhancement of Miller Creek including installation of habitat features such as large woody debris; plus conversion of a storm drain pipe to an open swale for better treatment of rainwater runoff.

This brings the total number of mitigated wetland and buffer acres near the airport to more than 102. The Port also created or enhanced 68 acres along the Green River in Auburn.

In a separate but related effort, the Port converted four construction storm water ponds for permanent use. These ponds were originally built to manage runoff from the third runway project. They were lined with weed control fabric and covered with netting to discourage birds, which can be hazardous to aircraft. There are 10 storm water detention ponds serving the airport, with plans to add one more this summer. Also in summer 2010, the Port plans other Miller Creek improvements including removal of a box culvert to improve fish migration, and steps to enhance the flow in the relocated section of the creek.

Interns gain real-world experience

Nine high school and college students served as interns at Sea-Tac Airport in 2009, working in fields such as security, environmental programs, engineering and emergency planning.

These paid internships give students an inside perspective on the variety of skills needed to keep the airport running, and the extensive coordination that goes on with the airlines and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

As part of an enrichment program, the interns also toured areas rarely seen by the public, including the FAA air traffic control tower, Port of Seattle fire and police facilities and the baggage handling operation. The students also participated in the first intern environmental service project, spending a half day clearing out invasive species in the Walker Creek Basin.

College internships at the airport are open to all. High school internships at the airport are targeted to students within the airport communities. For details, contact Derek Bender at bender.d@portseattle.org.

Acquisition services in new location

The Port of Seattle's Acquisition and Relocation Office recently moved from its neighborhood field office on 28th Avenue South to the Port's Airport Office Building, at the south end of Sea-Tac Airport's Main Terminal. For details, call (206) 787-6792.

The mailing address is:

Port of Seattle
Acquisition and Relocation
Seattle-Tacoma International Airport
P.O. Box 68727
Seattle, WA 98168-0727

Asistencia en Español

Para ayuda en español, por favor deje un mensaje al (206) 787-7142 con su nombre y número de teléfono y le regresaremos su llamada. Gracias.

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Printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based inks.

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