

CONVEYER-BELT PLAN RESISTED

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DES MOINES - The idea was to avoid having an army of dump trucks running along South King County roads.

But an alternative plan to build a temporary conveyor belt to transport fill for a new runway at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport isn't getting a warm reception from neighbors, either.

Yard signs read "No Conveyor Belt" on one side, and "Stop the Third Runway" on the other. Residents have packed City Council meetings to stop the plan.

The third runway, scheduled to be completed by 2005, will need more than 17 million cubic yards of fill.

To avoid an onslaught of dump trucks, the conveyor-belt plan was proposed by Henry "Hank" Hopkins, president of Bellevue-based Wescot. The belt would run about two miles from the shore of Puget Sound, through Des Moines city parks, along a sewer-district maintenance road and into the airport construction zone.

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