

*ED CARLSON MEMORIAL FIELD-
SOUTH LEWIS COUNTY AIRPORT
MASTER PLAN UPDATE*

INTRODUCTION

Lewis County initiated an Airport Master Plan Update study for the Ed Carlson Memorial Field – South Lewis County Airport (Airport) in March 2013 with a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to fund 90% of the study with Washington State Department of Transportation Aviation funding 5%, and Lewis County funding the remaining 5%.

The Airport’s last planning study was the *2003 Airport Layout Plan Update*, which included a narrative report. In 2002, the Airport prepared a report titled *Airport Needs Assessment, Planning and Recommendations*. Prior to the 2002 study, the Airport conducted a 1995 airport master plan study. The FAA recommends that airports periodically update their master plans as conditions affecting airport operations and development occur—often in unpredictable ways. Consequently, the timeframe to update a master plan varies for different airports.

This Master Plan Update will serve as Lewis County’s 20-year development strategy for the Airport to accommodate aviation demand, meet FAA design standards, address airport user needs, and serve its role in the air transportation system.

The Master Plan Update study involves several tasks spanning an estimated 15-month study timeframe. The FAA's Advisory Circular 150/5070-6B, Airport Master Plans, provides guidance for the planning process. Documentation of the study findings for the Airport will be presented in six chapters to include the following:

1. Inventory
2. Aviation Forecasts
3. Facility Requirements
4. Alternatives Development and Evaluation
5. Airport Plans
6. Implementation

The chapters will be published in draft for review and comment throughout the planning process. Once review comments are incorporated into all draft chapters, a comprehensive report will be published. Further, the Airport Layout Plan (ALP), which was last reviewed and approved by the FAA in 2003, will be updated. The ALP update will correct obsolete features, show any facilities constructed more recently and not reflected on the current ALP, and incorporate the County's long-term development plans so the future improvements will be eligible for Federal funding.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The County established a Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), which is a nine-member committee representing a cross section of the community. These PAC members will serve as community liaisons and participate in four work sessions over the estimated 15-month planning process. They will discuss airport issues, study progress, and key findings, and will also provide input, evaluate development concepts, and provide review comments and questions on all draft materials produced throughout the study process. PAC members are invited to share their knowledge of the study findings with the public at any time, but all PAC work sessions will also be open to the public. The first PAC meeting/work session was held on March 27, 2013.

The County will also hold a public information workshop in an open house format to follow PAC Meeting #3 where long-term development alternatives will be presented and evaluated. The Public Information Workshop will include a brief presentation and invite the public to ask questions, identify concerns, and provide input to the study.

Three project newsletters will also be published during the study process as part of the community outreach effort. The newsletter will be published prior to PAC Meeting #2, #3, and #4. Each newsletter will summarize the study progress and notify the community of the upcoming PAC Meeting. Newsletter #3 will advertise the Public Information Workshop. Newsletters will be posted online and available via email distribution to all subscribers.

Lewis County has established a project website to keep the public informed of the Airport Master Plan Update study progress. The County will post meeting information, public comment sheets, newsletters, draft airport master plan materials, and other pertinent information on their website at: www.lewiscountywa.gov/ed-carlson-memorial-field-south-lewis-county-airport-tdo

AIRPORT ISSUES

The Ed Carlson Memorial Field – South Lewis County Airport is a public use general aviation (GA) airport serving its airport users, community, surrounding region, and the air transportation system. Consequently, the Airport is an important asset. Identifying issues and taking action to address those issues is necessary to preserve and enhance this important asset. The following is a list of airport issues—coordinated with Lewis County and the PAC members—for the master plan to address.

- Existing and potential airport users and their needs
- Runway length adequate to support existing and future needs
- Preserving existing infrastructure and costs for future improvements
- Road in Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) on west end
- Runway development opportunities on south side of runway
- Existing land constraints and possible need for acquisition
- Existing wetlands
- Security – fencing, wildlife intrusions
- Stormwater management

To uncover additional issues for the planning study, a survey questionnaire (Appendix B) was prepared and distributed. Copies of the survey were distributed to the local based aircraft owners and airport tenants. Lewis County also posted the survey on their website. Further, interviews with other area airports provided some additional comments on issues to be addressed.

Some of the issues/needs identified by the survey respondents and area airports included:

- FBO facilities and services (lounge area, computer and internet access, courtesy cars)
- Taxiway improvements (widening, paving)
- Upgraded fuel facilities/pumps
- Hangar space (clear derelict airplanes, build more hangars)
- Improved landside access (paved, aesthetically appealing)
- Weather reporting station
- General airport maintenance and grass mowing
- Access to water for washing aircraft

Additional discussion of the survey responses and interviews are addressed in Chapter 2, Forecasts, and Chapter 3, Facility Requirements, as appropriate. An in depth discussion of the issues identified by the airport users and other area airports is included in Appendix B.

PLAN GOALS

The Airport Master Plan goals should align with the County's long-term vision for the Airport and guide the near- to long-term plans for improved airport facilities and services. The following plan goals were identified in coordination with the County and PAC members:

- Enhance safety and security
- Support economic growth
- Accommodate demand
- Preserve/protect investment

These goals will also provide the framework for defining evaluation criteria used later in the study to evaluate the various development alternatives for the Airport.