

White Paper

WSDOT Aviation Division serves in partnership with the Washington State Aviation Alliance

Washington State Aviation Alliance (WSAA) White Paper

Aviation in Washington state contributes significantly to its economy, transportation system and quality of life. Airports, pilot and aircraft organizations and various different user groups have extensive interests in aviation including general aviation, commercial aviation, aerospace, aircraft manufacturing and aviation safety. The statewide aviation system is crucial to its emergency and disaster response efforts and enables a steady flow of commerce and tourism to many of its communities. In 2012, the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) Aviation Economic Impact Study revealed that airports **support 248,500 jobs, and generate nearly \$51 billion in economic output.**¹

There is little question that the general aviation industry is facing serious challenges in today's economic climate, a situation that may become worse depending on actions taken to balance budgets and reduce spending. Many proposed actions could result in further adverse impacts to an already depressed industry. While we in the industry recognize the importance of general aviation to the transportation system and its value to local and national economies, many do not have that information or share our view – which makes it important that we find ways to protect the industry and, where possible, promote its growth.

A number of organizations have been created nationally to address these issues. And there is recognition of a need for those of us in Washington's aviation community to join forces in a similar way in an effort to protect and promote general aviation interests in the state. For this reason a small group of representatives from several aviation organizations met and developed plans for an organization that will serve that purpose.

This organization will be titled the Washington State Aviation Alliance (WSAA) and will be created as a 501(c)(6) nonprofit corporation. Purposes as stated in the adopted bylaws are:

- A. To advocate for aviation in the state and bring together members of various aviation associations to represent a collective voice for common goals.
- B. To promote airports as vital to our state's economy and transportation system.
- C. To encourage aviation education and training opportunities throughout the state to foster new generations of skilled workers for aviation jobs.
- D. To advocate for airport issues that are important to the state, region and communities they serve.
- E. To support aviation initiatives that bolster the state's economy and transportation system.
- F. To communicate with decision makers about the importance of aviation.
- G. To propose initiatives and legislation that address aviation issues and promote the health of aviation in the state.
- H. To enable the exchange of ideas, information and experience between various aviation user groups.
- I. To provide outreach to user groups and the public about relevant aviation issues and initiatives.
- J. To take all other appropriate action in furtherance of such purposes; and consistent with the above, to exercise all powers available to nonprofit corporations.
- K. To act as a resource for:
 - a. Major planning initiatives within Washington State, and
 - b. Aviation issues affecting Washington State.

The WSAA mission statement is: The Washington State Aviation Alliance serves as a collective voice for aviation and airport-related organizations to protect and promote aviation in the state of Washington.

Membership in the alliance will consist of aviation organizations properly incorporated or organized in Washington state under four categories:

1. Voting Members are general aviation organizations properly incorporated or organized within Washington state that have an active membership and an established location(s), chapter(s), or appointed representative within the state of Washington, as approved by a majority vote of the Alliance;
2. Additional Voting Membership is granted to those Washington State Legislature-enacted Organizations with an Aviation Component, including but not limited to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation Division and the Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA). The WSDOT Aviation Division director and the WPPA Aviation Committee Chair are the preferred Voting Members, respectively, to the Alliance so long as WSDOT Aviation and/or WPPA members own or operate airports and to the extent that compliance with state ethics laws may require abstention from voting from time to time;
3. Non-Voting Members are general aviation organizations that do not have an established location within Washington state, do not have a single Chapter that represents its membership on a statewide basis, or which otherwise do not meet the criteria for Voting Membership, and are granted a Non-Voting Membership by a majority vote of the Alliance; and
4. Associate Membership is Non-Voting Membership and may include, but is not limited to, aviation-oriented organizations or businesses, aviation consultants, aviation educational entities, air museums, and higher education institutions that offer degree programs in aviation-related fields of study and students.

¹ WSDOT, "Aviation Economic Impact Study," Executive Summary, 2012, p. iii