



Puget Sound Regional Council

ACTION ITEM

February 15, 2018

To: Executive Board
From: Josh Brown, Executive Director
Subject: **Regional Aviation Baseline Study**

IN BRIEF

As discussed at the January 25th Executive Board meeting, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has requested that PSRC lead a new regional aviation baseline study that would build on the master planning work underway at many of the region's airports and set a regional stage for future planning. At its February 22nd meeting, the Executive Board will receive a briefing on the proposed scope of work and will be asked for direction for staff to proceed.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Executive Board should direct staff to proceed with pursuing grant funding through the Federal Aviation Administration to complete a Regional Aviation Baseline Study.

DISCUSSION

Master planning is underway at several airports within the central Puget Sound region, including King County International Airport (Boeing Field), Renton Municipal Airport, and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Sea-Tac has also seen significant growth in the number of passengers served and aircraft operations over the past several years. New commercial service is expected to begin at Paine Field in Everett in late 2018.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has requested that the PSRC lead a new regional aviation baseline study that would build on the emerging master plans and set the stage for future planning. It is a timely opportunity to understand the dynamics of the region's growing aviation activity, the unique role of the regional aviation system in supporting this global center for aerospace manufacturing, the economic impact of the region's airports, and the impact of airport activities on surrounding communities.

PSRC staff has worked with the FAA and the region's airport operators to develop a draft scope of work for the study, which is included in Attachment A. The baseline study is expected to produce information critical for understanding the region's aviation needs and options for policy makers to consider for meeting those needs. The proposed study would be launched mid-2018 and completed by the end of 2019.

For more information, please contact Jeff Storrar at jstorrar@psrc.org or (206)587-4817 or Ben Bakkenta at bbakkenta@psrc.org or (206) 971-3286.

Attachments:

Scope - Regional Aviation Baseline Study 2_14_18

DRAFT - Regional Aviation Baseline Study

OVERVIEW

The objective of the Regional Aviation Baseline Study is to provide a clear picture of the aviation activities and needs in the central Puget Sound region (King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish) and set the stage for future planning. Master planning is underway at several airports within the central Puget Sound region, including King County International Airport (Boeing Field), Renton Municipal Airport, and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Overall growth in activity at the region's airports is increasing due to the strength of the regional economy and therefore, now is the time to identify how future demand for air transportation will be met. The baseline study is expected to produce information critical for understanding the region's aviation needs and options for policy makers to consider for meeting those needs in the future.

SCOPE OF WORK

- Project Administration and Management – This task includes the overall management of the project, including working closely with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on grant administration, invoicing and billing with the selected consultant, and providing oversight on the other study tasks and adjusting work accordingly.
- Stakeholder Engagement and Education - The study will be conducted with an emphasis on transparency and education with all interested stakeholders. A focus will be placed on providing clear communication for a diverse audience and robust communication and regular engagement with interested parties. Expected work will:
 - Develop and implement a communication and engagement strategy, including social media, web based communication, media and community relations, and a mechanism for stakeholders to provide meaningful input
 - Identify stakeholders and provide regular outreach and engagement opportunities, including community members, aviation stakeholders, and businesses
 - Develop and complete a public opinion survey on the region's aviation activities to identify views about the region's current and future aviation activities
 - Develop visuals and infographics to communicate on topics identified in the study
 - Perform government relations and engagement with policy makers (local, state, and federal) and prepare and provide presentations to a wide variety of interested parties
- Identify Existing Conditions and Trends – This task will identify existing conditions and recent trends that form the baseline for current aviation activity in the region. Work products associated with this task will provide an overview of the region's civil and military airports, indicate the share, interaction between, and recent growth of different aviation sectors, describe the economic impact of airports and aviation sectors to the region, and identify the key relationships and dependencies between airports within and outside the region. Expected work will:
 - Develop an inventory of all airports in the region and identify significant trends, issues and anticipated needs among them, beginning with information from existing plans
 - Conduct an economic analysis of the region's airports and describe how the region's population and economic growth pressures are influencing each airport within the region
 - Identify the aviation markets and sectors in the region (e.g. commercial service, air cargo, aerospace manufacturing, general aviation, etc.) and conduct an analysis that identifies trends and influencing factors by sector
 - Identify how the airspace is currently configured within the region to serve each airport. Identify the current challenges facing operation of that airspace given the regional population and economic growth pressures

- Evaluate Aviation Issues and Needs - This task draws on the findings and products from the work described above, as well as the outputs associated with various airport master planning efforts currently underway. It will evaluate known and anticipated issues and needs for the continued operation of a safe, efficient, and high-functioning aviation system that underpins the region's economy and population growth. To the extent practicable, implications and trade-offs would be clearly identified. Expected work will:
 - Summarize existing airport master planning and air cargo study efforts
 - Conduct a high-level analysis of future regional aviation needs vis-à-vis existing and future demand by activity type. This includes both landside and airside
 - Conduct an assessment of the highest priority challenges and implications of approaches to address them
 - Provide options for addressing the central Puget Sound region's future aviation needs
 - Summarize issues that need further analysis
- Final Report & Presentation - This task would summarize the key findings of the study in a variety of formats (e.g. executive summary, final report, presentation, etc.) and to communicate these to study stakeholders and policy makers to set the stage for future planning.