

## **Media Advisory – July 30**

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### **FAA grant allows county airfield repairs to continue**

Snohomish County will receive a federal grant worth nearly \$8 million to further repairs at the county airport, also known as Paine Field.

Combined with \$11 million received in June from federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, the airport will nearly complete an overhaul of the airport's main runway and taxiway system.

“Paine Field is an important part of this state’s aerospace industry, so keeping it in top shape is a priority for Snohomish County,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “We know thousands of jobs here depend on that runway, and we continue to make that message very clear when seeking funds.”

Since June, the airport has been using ARRA funding to begin repairing the primary runway (16R/34L) and the south portion of parallel Taxiway Alpha. The additional \$7.9 million from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will allow that work to continue on the north part of Taxiway Alpha.

To grind off the top layer of asphalt and to repave it, the main runway will be closed for six days beginning at 6 p.m. Friday.

The total cost of the project is more than \$20 million and is expected to be completed with the receipt of additional FAA Airport Improvement Program grants during the next few years.

Runway 16R-34L is the main jet runway at Paine Field and is the only runway that supports the large aircraft manufactured by Boeing as well as aircraft refurbished at Aviation Technical Services (ATS). The runway was last paved in 1996 and is at the end of its design life. It is beginning to deteriorate and show stress from the operations of large aircraft.

Taxiway Alpha parallels the runway and is the only connector taxiway that Boeing and ATS use for their flight operations. The taxiway was paved 25 years ago and is at the end of its design life.

This project is necessary in order to meet FAA design standards and has been identified as a top priority for the county airport.

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