

## **Media Advisory – Jan. 5, 2009**

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### **FAA moves location of third commercial air hearing**

The Federal Aviation Administration has changed the location of the third public hearing scheduled to accept comments on the draft environmental assessment pertaining to two proposals for commercial air service at Snohomish County's Paine Field Airport.

The Jan. 21 public hearing will now be held at Kamiak High School, 10801 Harbour Pointe Boulevard, Mukilteo, instead of the Lynnwood Convention Center. The public hearing will still begin at 6 p.m. and follow formats used during the Jan. 4 and Jan. 5 hearings.

The public comment period will still run until Feb. 5, 2010. The draft environmental assessment is available for review at the Paine Field Airport office, in local public libraries, on the Paine Field Web site [www.painefield.com/airserviceea.html](http://www.painefield.com/airserviceea.html), and at [www.snoco.org/departments/airport](http://www.snoco.org/departments/airport).

Comments can be submitted in person during the three scheduled public hearings. Comments also may be submitted by e-mail to [cayla.morgan@faa.gov](mailto:cayla.morgan@faa.gov) or [airserviceecomments@snoco.org](mailto:airserviceecomments@snoco.org).

Comments sent by mail should be addressed to:

- Cayla Morgan, Environmental Protection Specialist, Seattle Airports District Office, Federal Aviation Administration, 1601 Lind Avenue S.W., Renton, WA 98057-3356.
- Dave Waggoner, Director, Snohomish County Airport, 3220 100th Street S.W., Suite A, Everett, WA 98204.

The environmental review was conducted in response to two requests to begin commercial air service at Paine Field received by Snohomish County in 2008. Although Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and some County Council members have said they do not support commercial air service at Paine Field, federal law obligates the county to accommodate commercial service.

Federal law does not allow the county to prohibit or limit scheduled passenger air service. Instead, it requires that the county negotiate with the airlines in good faith to accommodate their proposed service.

Horizon Airlines has indicated it wants to operate four times a day to Portland and twice per day to Spokane, using 75-seat Bombardier Q400 turboprop airplanes on both routes. Allegiant has said it plans to operate twice a week to Las Vegas, using 150-seat MD83 jet aircraft.

Before airlines may begin commercial service, the FAA must amend the county's operating certificate for Paine Field as well as the airlines' operating specifications. The county was required to prepare the environmental assessment for FAA approval before those amendments can occur. The preparation of the environmental assessment was funded by an FAA grant and by the time reviews are finished is expected to have cost more than \$450,000.

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