

ACTION ITEM: Develop a regional aviation baseline study.

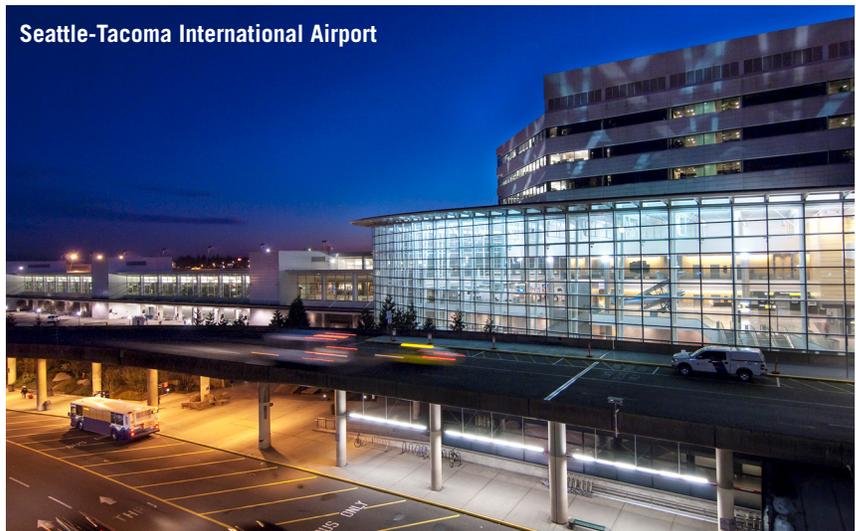
PSRC will facilitate development of a baseline study to provide a clear picture of the aviation activities and needs in the region and set the stage for future planning efforts.

Opportunity

Airports are key contributors to a region’s economy. Airports link a region to the global economy, facilitating the movement of people and goods, and supporting trade, tourism and business activities. Regions need to ensure that airports keep pace with economic growth in order to compete in the global economy.

Regional Perspective

Commercial aviation is a cornerstone of the region’s economy and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is its aviation powerhouse. The airport is a major regional employment center with more than 18,000 workers and indirectly supports 172,000 jobs throughout the state. King County International Airport (Boeing Field) in Seattle averages around 200,000 takeoffs and landings each year.



This airport serves smaller commercial passenger airlines, private aircraft owners, cargo carriers and the military. Paine Field currently handles around 100,000 annual flights for Boeing operations. The Bremerton National Airport is the largest airport on the Kitsap Peninsula and continues to support general and corporate service.

The region’s airports facilitate significant economic activity. Major imports through regional airports include high value aerospace components and industrial machinery destined for aerospace companies. Exports include fresh cherries grown in central and eastern Washington and seafood, including live geoduck. Passenger traffic and cargo volumes are at record levels and are on a high-growth trajectory, driven in part by tourism and leisure activities. Sea-Tac is among the fastest growing major airports in the United States and ranks as one of the top 10 busiest airports in North America. Current projections are for passenger traffic through Sea-Tac to reach 66 million by 2034.



In response to anticipated demand, the Port of Seattle is developing a Sustainable Airport Master Plan for Sea-Tac. Master planning is underway at other regional airports as well, including King County International Airport (Boeing Field) and Renton Municipal Airport. New commercial service is expected to begin at Paine Field in Everett in late 2018. The region needs to ensure that airport growth plans are in line with projected demand for these facilities.

Project Details

The Federal Aviation Administration has requested that PSRC lead a new regional aviation baseline study that would build on emerging airport master plans and set the stage for future planning. PSRC staff has worked with the FAA to develop a draft scope of work for the study, which is expected to produce information critical for understanding the region's aviation needs and options for policy makers to consider for meeting those needs. PSRC anticipates the study will begin in June 2018 and be completed by the end of 2019.

Next steps: PSRC anticipates selecting a consultant and working to finalize the grant through FAA by June 2018.



connection to economic strategy

Amazing Place GOAL: COMPETE GLOBALLY

STRATEGY: Sustain and grow commercial air travel connections domestically and globally

This strategy calls for the development of a long-term strategy to ensure that the region's airports keep pace with the needs of an expanding population and economy.

