

Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission

Meeting Summary

Location: TEAMS Meeting
Date: December 7, 2021
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Attendees: David Fleckenstein, Tony Bean, Jeffrey Brown, Lois Bollenback, Rep. Tom Dent, Steve Edmiston, Arif Ghouse, Andrea Goodpasture, Warren Hendrickson, Robert Hodgman, Shane Jones, Sen. Karen Keiser, Stroud Kunkle, Jim Kuntz, Rep. Tina Orwall, Robert Rodriguez, Rudy Rudolph, Jason Thibedeau, Robin Toth, Kerri Woehler, Bryce Yadon, Christina Crea, Max Platts, Terri Palumbo, and guests
Absent: Joseph Braham, Mark Englizian, Spencer Hansen, Senator Jim Honeyford, Larry Krauter

Welcome

David Fleckenstein welcomed Commission members and the members of the audience, to the December meeting of the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission (CACC). He then reviewed the agenda.

Public Comment Period

No public comments offered

Updates

The Aviation System Plan contract is with Kimley-Horn and we will ask them to present to the Commission in the future.

3,388 people have participated in the Online Open House so far. It closes December 8 and we hope to have a roll up of information out to you prior to the Christmas holiday.

WSDOT is working on a hybrid meeting on January 6 for the CACC.

Charter Review

Warren shared the voting requirement issues and the outcome of the subcommittee formed to articulate a solution since a survey of Commission members did not lead to a clear consensus. The subcommittee recommendation is,

- 1) the minimum quorum for all votes is 12 voting members,
- 2) minimum affirmative votes for all decisions is 9 votes, and
- 3) proxies are not permitted.

This meeting did not have enough voting members to make a decision on this recommendation. *(This topic will move to the next meeting.)*

David then reviewed the guiding principles, asking members if they had any proposed language changes for the introduction and each principle.

Introduction: There was some discussion. No proposed changes after the discussion.

Public benefit: No comments

Economic feasibility: No comments

Environmental responsibility: Part of this discussion was tabled from the previous meeting.

Warren clarified what tabling a topic is and how to take it from the table. David clarified that in

the past, the entire body of the Commission, both voting and non-voting members, voted on the guiding principles and the precedence has been the majority vote of member attendees carried the decision. So, with the exception of voting on the voting requirements for the list of airport locations, his suggestion is that for the guiding principles we continue with the entire membership giving us their opinions/votes for any guiding principles changes. Warren agreed. Rep. Orwall offered to gather more information on the public health topic if members want it. There was no motion to move the public health topic from the table. David requested members to let him know what type of information they would like so we can front load the next meeting with that information or get it to them ahead of time. Warren asked, does anyone feel the tabled motion prevents any further discourse until it is taken from the table? If so, now is the time to voice that concern otherwise we will consider the matter still tabled and we will commence with the educational process as per the requests received from Commission members. No one responded.
Social Equity: No comments

Webinar

Environmental Justice and Social Equity presentation by Anthony Pheasant, Title IV Equity & Data Analyst/WSDOT, Charlene Kay, Regional Planning & Community Partnerships/WSDOT, and Alberto Valentin, Community Engagement and Environmental Justice Manager/WSDOT. They spoke on why it is important to understand and include Title VI and environmental justice good practices in all transportation activities to guarantee a better quality of life for all Washingtonians and a fair participation of all communities in decision making.

Title VI: entities, whether public or private, that receive federal assistance from any federal agency, must take concrete steps to ensure nondiscrimination in their programs and activities. Title VI protected classes are race, color, national origin, and limited English proficiency (LEP).

Environmental Justice: is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Washington state passed the Healthy Environment for All Act (HEAL Act), Senate bill 5141 effective July 25, 2021. This created a framework of three main goals for all covered agencies, including WSDOT; 1) implement the recommendations of the environmental justice task force, 2) reduce environmental and health disparities in Washington state to improve the health of all Washington state residents, 3) reduce exposure to environmental hazards within Indian Country and improve state practices to reduce contamination of traditional foods. Under the HEAL Act, WSDOT needs to begin conducting environmental justice assessments on significant agency actions which may cause environmental harm or may affect the equitable distribution of environmental benefits to an overburdened community or a vulnerable population, after July 1, 2023.

Discussion

Lynsey Burgess covered the recent community engagement efforts.

- Extended the online open house through 8 Dec. and made it available in 15 languages.
- Worked with the WSDOT Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) to establish a Community Engagement Working Group.
- Made more people aware of the online open house and the CACC's work through social media, news, Community-Based Organizations (CBO), etc.

- Working to refine future engagements as the recommendations narrow through focus groups and coordination with airport sponsors.

Senator Keiser asked two questions; when will we be able to get copies of the comments submitted through the open house, and have we begun to collect demographic and racial data for the potential locations that we are looking at?

David stated we have begun to collect demographic and racial data, the work that has been done has been based on demographic information. The premise behind some of the work conducted was based on part of that demographic information both in the current online open house and in the earlier survey sent out to the public.

Lynsey agreed with David's summary and shared that they did a thorough county breakdown of the areas that included all six preliminary sites before conducting the survey or the online open house. The rollup information from the online open house will include this information along with the comments (almost 4,000). We hope to have this out prior to the holidays.

Steve asked if we have run the screens and the disparities maps on the current list of six sites (as per slide 18, Collecting Demographic Data)?

David stated that if Steve is referencing the HEAL Act, some of those things don't become applicable until after 1 July 2023 and there are other things which become effective even later.

Alberto said that is correct. Right now, WSDOT is responsible to identify disadvantaged populations and minority, low income, and Native American population communities statewide. Once we identify them, we need to create opportunity for environmental justice assessment. The difference between the HEAL Act and Executive Order 12898: under NEPA now, we are required to perform environmental justice assessments or analysis when EJ protected populations are identified in the area of the project; under the HEAL Act, we are responsible to enforce EJ assessment or analysis whether NEPA reviews are required or not.

Wrap Up

- Next meeting is tentatively January 6, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and is being set up as a hybrid meeting.
- Two items will be on the list for the next meeting: the voting requirement and the discussion on environmental responsibility.
- WSDOT will get additional information out to the members regarding environmental responsibility.
- PRR will provide the feedback from the online open house and this will be posted to the CACC website once we have it.

Adjourned

Approximately 11:42 a.m.