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Hillsboro Airport Master Plan Update Begins

Process will guide the airport's future over the next 20 years

What's the role of Hillsboro Airport in the community over the next 20 years?

That's the question the planning advisory committee hopes to answer as they begin an update of the Hillsboro Airport Master Plan on Feb. 27. The meeting runs from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the Hillsboro City Hall auditorium, 150 E. Main Street. Community comments are welcomed at 7:55 p.m.

The process will explore the role of the airport, existing assets and facilities, the forecast and alternatives for future development, and options for ongoing public engagement on airport matters. The committee will provide planning input to the Port of Portland, which owns and operates the airport. The process will take two years.

All meetings are open to the community and comments are invited. The Port will also invite community involvement through special workshops, open houses and online open houses. The committee represents diverse airport interests and will explore economic development, sustainability and equity in the planning process. This focus on equity involves former airport advisory committee members, community organizations, local government and airport businesses.

"Hillsboro Airport has provided an important community resource for almost 90 years," said Steve Nagy, Port manager of the airport. "We look forward to this process informing us on future aviation needs, and how we can work with the community in new ways."

Hillsboro Airport is an integral part of the region's transportation system, providing the highest standard of general aviation facilities to businesses and residents of Washington County and beyond. The airport is home to local corporate flight departments, aircraft charter services for business travel, air ambulance services, television news helicopters, flight schools, aircraft maintenance and repair operations, a corporate air shuttle service, and a U.S. Customs and Border Protection office for international flights. More than 25 businesses operate on-airport. In

2016, the airport supported more than 198,000 flights, making it the second busiest airport in the state.

Established in 1928, the airport was privately operated and later purchased by the City of Hillsboro. The Port took over operation of the airport in 1966. The airport has three runways, a Federal Aviation Administration air traffic control tower and an instrument landing system.

As the City of Hillsboro grew to encompass the airport, the City and Port worked together to ensure that compatible land-use policies were put in place, with the goal of separating the airport from the residential communities as much as possible. The Port also initiated a Fly Quiet program, which encourages pilots to operate aircraft in ways that reduce noise impacts on airport neighbors.

The most recent economic impact study shows that the airport generated 1,472 jobs at the airport and in the community, \$83.5 million in personal income, and \$107.4 million in business revenue.

For more information about the master planning process, please contact Jayson Shanafelt at jayson.shanafelt@portofportland.com or 503.415.6853.

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