

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTLAND, ORE. (June 11, 2014) – Port to Construct Runway at Hillsboro Airport

The Port of Portland will begin construction of a third runway at Hillsboro Airport in July.

Runway 13L/31R will be a new 60-foot wide, 3,600-foot-long aviation runway parallel to existing Runway 13/31. The new runway is expected to provide the needed capacity to enable Hillsboro Airport to meet projected aviation demand for the next 30 years.

Residents on the north side of the airport may notice changes in flight activity as flight training and helicopter operations shift slightly so as not to overfly construction activities. Additionally, the community may see an increase in construction vehicles, which will access the site from Evergreen Road and Brookwood Parkway.

The construction of a parallel runway is one of the primary infrastructure capacity enhancements identified by the 2005 Hillsboro Airport Master Plan. Parallel runways will allow simultaneous operations of business class aircraft on the existing runway while smaller propeller aircraft use the new, shorter runway. This segregation of aircraft enables air traffic controllers to direct aircraft safely and efficiently thereby decreasing the time a pilot would need to queue for takeoff or landing.

Today, the Port of Portland Commission approved a \$3.5 million contract with Wildish Standard Paving Company for the construction of Runway 13L/31R and associated infrastructure at Hillsboro Airport.

Preparation of the Environmental Assessment for the parallel runway project began in April 2008 and the Federal Aviation Administration issued a "Finding of No Significant Impact" in January 2010. Local residents challenged the FAA's decision to approve the new runway construction and in August 2011, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals remanded the matter to the FAA with instructions to perform additional analysis. A supplemental EA was prepared throughout 2012 and 2013. The FAA issued a new Record of Decision in February 2014 approving the construction of the new runway.

Local residents have again challenged the FAA's decision to approve the project. If the challenge results in agency- or court-imposed delays, the Port will respond accordingly.