

# COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No: 8A

Meeting: 12/15/22

**DATE:** November 29, 2022

**TO:** Port Commission

**FROM:** Eric Johnson, Executive Director  
Sponsor: Sean Eagan, Government Affairs Director  
Presenter: Warren Hendrickson, CACC Vice Chair

**SUBJECT:** Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission: New Airport Siting Briefing

**A. BRIEFING:**

This is intended to brief the work of the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission.

**B. BACKGROUND**

Created by the state Legislature in 2019, with Commission members appointed by the Governor, the CACC is charged with providing recommendations to the Legislature for how to solve the forecasted shortage of capacity for commercial air passenger service, air cargo, and general aviation.

The CACC began in October 2019 and is required to meet three deadlines:

- Provide an initial list of six possible locations to the Legislature by January 1, 2021 **[Completed]**
- Provide a list of the top two location options by October 15, 2022 **[Completed]**
- Provide a single preferred location recommendation by June 15, 2023

Rather than list two top locations, the Commission has, instead, narrowed choices down to two options:

- **Add capacity to Paine Field according to its Airport Master Plan** (with potential for additional capacity), assume SeaTac Airport executes its Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP), assist other airports interested in pursuing regional commercial service (distributed air service supported by emerging technology)
- **Continue to develop a greenfield site option with a two (2) runway configuration.** Pierce County Central, Pierce County East and Thurston County Central are the three greenfield sites remaining under consideration for a new airport, out of the 10 that were analyzed by the state's consultant.

The consultant for the Washington Aviation System Plan (WASP) has been conducting technical analysis that also serves the needs of the Commission. The two activities are separate endeavors but have similar interests. The reason the CACC decided to continue to consider the three greenfield sites is because all of the analysis has not yet been completed; the CACC had a legislative deadline to report a reduced list of locations to the legislature.

Since there are still three sites being analyzed, the CACC chose to continue to examine these three sites as one of the options. The analysis that is remaining includes:

- Airspace review – with assistance from the FAA
- Air cargo analysis
- Additional environmental factor analysis
- Transportation/access analysis
- Infrastructure analysis
- Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) cost estimates

Once this analysis is complete, the consultant planning team will provide the data to the Commission. We anticipate the first round of information in the February 2023 timeframe and will schedule a commission meeting once the information is available.

At this time, the CACC is only focusing on potential airport locations. Future governance of the airport remains unclear. A variety of entities manage airports in Washington, including ports, counties and states.