



PRESS RELEASE

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OLYMPIA REGIONAL AIRPORT PRESENTED WITH AWARD FOR RUNWAY SAFETY PROJECT

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently presented a special award to the Port of Olympia's Olympia Regional Airport for its outstanding commitment to quality and safety in completing a complex runway safety project. The award was given at the FAA Northwest Mountain Region Airports Conference held in April.

This major runway safety improvement project was completed in September 2005, and the 5,500-foot runway is now fully operational. Relocation of 759 feet of the Airport main runway to the south was mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to alleviate safety concerns and comply with airport design regulations. These improvements have been in the planning stages for several years and involved realigning roads at the south end of the airport as well.

"It is quite an honor for the FAA to recognize individual airports for these types of accomplishments," said Port Commissioner Bob Van Schoorl. "The FAA specifically highlighted the leadership, perseverance and professionalism provided by Port staff, including Rudy Rudolph, Airport Director, Andrea Fontenot, Public Works Director and Rod Hudson, Project Manager. Completion of this project assures that the airport operates safely."

Cost of the construction phase of runway project was about \$3.8 million, with over 90 per cent funded by the FAA. As part of the project, improvements were also made to taxiways, storm water systems, edge lighting, lighted signs and FAA navigational aids.

A second phase of the project, which will correct a line of sight problem, is being planned for 2007. In this phase, a hump in the main runway will be leveled to further improve runway visibility and safety.

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