



Marion County

OREGON

Board of Commissioners

January 25, 2018

(503) 588-5212
(503) 588-5237-FAX

Representative Rick Lewis
Oregon Legislative Assembly
900 Court Street NE, H-479
Salem, OR 97301

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Janet Carlson
Kevin Cameron
Sam Brentano

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

John Lattimer

RE: HB 4092 Aurora Airport Runway Expansion

Dear Representative Lewis:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners strongly supports HB 4092, the Aurora Airport runway expansion. The airport site is a unique asset to not only Marion County, but the Metro Region, City of Wilsonville and the businesses that operate with the need for corporate aircraft.

The Aurora Airport is one of the busiest and largest state-owned airports in the state with nearly 95,000 aircraft operations per year. Federal, state, and local governments, along with private businesses, have invested in the airport for at least a decade, helping create approximately 1,200 direct jobs and cultivating a robust property tax base, resulting in growing revenue for the citizens of Marion County and beyond.

The airport's current runway length of 5,000 feet is inadequate for modern corporate and private aircraft. Annually at least 500 "constrained operations" take place with these aircraft where they need to take off and land with reduced fuel and cargo loads due to the length of the runway. To accommodate corporate aircraft, the 1976 Aurora Airport Master Plan, updated in 2013, calls for adding 1,000 feet to the existing runway for a total of 6,000 feet. Included in the plan is a request by Charbonneau and surrounding neighbors for the runway to extend south instead of north. (*Lengthening the runway to the south by 1,000 feet falls within the "public" zone away from residential areas and within the boundary established in the 1976 Master Plan.*)

Marion County has spent considerable resources researching and developing the county's comprehensive plan. The 1976 Aurora State Airport Master Plan is included in the county's comprehensive plan as a component of the plan's background and inventory. The county's comprehensive plan and "public" zone were vetted in a public process and acknowledged by the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission. The airport facility is also included as a part of Marion County's Transportation System Plan.

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All proposed improvements to the airport have been extensively reviewed in the public process. The last master plan update involved convening representatives from all surrounding cities and counties and concluded after a three year process.

HB 4092 is not the first public facility the Oregon legislature has allowed outright use of EFU zoned land. Rural fire stations, utility facilities necessary for public service, and modifications of existing roadways have all been granted an exception in prior years.

Marion County asks for your support for the Aurora Airport runway expansion, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,


Janet Carlson, Chair


Kevin Cameron, Vice Chair


Samuel A. Brentano, Commissioner