



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Majority of survey respondents favor Paine Field passenger service
Nearly 900 participate in on-line poll

Passenger air service at Paine Field is favored by 71 percent of the people who participated in an on-line survey sponsored by a group promoting a change to allow commercial airlines to use the airport.

“The convenience of flying from Paine Field is popular with the public in every area of Snohomish County,” said Greg Tisdel, co-chair of Fly Paine Field.

The survey was posted on the group’s website from August 29 through September 19 and links to it were e-mailed to interested parties. By September 19, 887 people had logged on and answered some or all of the questions. Only 21 percent of participants said they oppose commercial flights at Paine Field.

The biggest frustration for travelers is not knowing how long it will take to drive to Sea-Tac, said co-chair Todd Brunner. “People tell us they arrive too early or they miss their flights. It can take anywhere from an hour to more than two hours to get to Sea-Tac. You just never know.”

Brunner said flying from Paine Field is about more than convenience. “Flying from Paine Field would be so much easier for senior citizens, handicapped people and young families.”

Tisdel said that while his group’s survey is not scientific, it is the first solid evidence of overwhelming, county-wide public support for passenger flights at Paine Field.

“We’re confident there is broad public support for passenger air service at Paine Field,” he said. “We encourage Snohomish County to follow up our survey with a telephone poll of a representative sample of all citizens in the county.”

Paine Field already has approximately 400 take-offs and landings a day.

“We would just like to see a few of those flights carrying passengers,” Brunner said. “Paine Field is never going to be another Sea-Tac or even a major secondary airport, but it could easily accommodate a few daily passenger flights. It would also create jobs, benefit current airport users and improve our transportation system.”

A summary of survey responses is attached.

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