

PDX 2045 Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

Airfield Tour Questions and Comments

Physical layout and facilities

Q: How long is a typical runway?

A: Runway length requirements depend on several factors, including – but not limited to – aircraft weight, engine performance, airport altitude, and the local temperature. Runway length needs for PDX will be evaluated as part of PDX 2045. It is not anticipated that PDX’s runways will require additional length. The existing lengths of PDX runways are approximately as follows: South Runway (10R-28L) 11,000 feet; North Runway (10L-28R) 9,800 feet; and Crosswind Runway (3-21) 6,000 feet.

Q: How many aircraft does remain overnight (RON) parking need to accommodate?

A: We can currently accommodate up to 32 planes, depending on their size. Future RON needs will vary based on airline scheduling practices; estimated RON requirements will be assessed in subsequent analysis in PDX 2045.

Q: What is the Port doing to increase seismic stability of runways?

A: The Port is in the process of planning to reconstruct a portion of the South Runway to be seismically resilient. We’ll be sharing more information about this project soon.

Q: Do we anticipate accommodating hydrogen fuels in future?

A: If the Port determines the need to accommodate hydrogen fuel at PDX, PDX 2045 would seek to identify the appropriate location and land area reserve for those facilities.

Q: Is the Port doing anything with the land on Government Island?

A: Government Island is land owned by the Port that is used as a habitat mitigation site and is managed in coordination with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

Q: When was the North Runway originally constructed?

A: The North Runway was originally constructed in 1958 with both ends extended in 2009/10. In 2027 the Port will rehabilitate the runway, but this will not change its size or configuration. The Port will look to add additional low-visibility capabilities to the North Runway at that time.

Q: When was the Crosswind Runway originally constructed?

A: The Crosswind Runway (Runway 3-21) was originally constructed in 1941; it was extended in 1959.

Q: Does each airline have their own area for storing ground service/support equipment?

A: Yes, each airline has assigned storage areas for their equipment.

Q: Are there fire hydrants on the airfield? In the terminal?

A: Yes, there are hydrants located around the airfield and the terminal that can be accessed by Port fire fighters to respond to emergencies. Closer to the runways, these hydrants are flush-mounted to the surface avoid creating obstacles.

Q: How far away are residential neighborhoods like Cully and Concordia from the Crosswind Runway (Runway 3-21)?

A: These residential neighborhoods are just under a mile away from the southern end of Runway 3-21.

Airfield operations

Q: Would the Port limit late-night touch-and-go landings to free up runway capacity?

A: The Port would consider operational enhancements to address capacity shortfalls. Currently, we do not estimate any capacity impacts from late-night touch and go operations.

Q: Is a pilot needed onboard to park RON aircraft?

A: That decision varies from airline to airline, but certain airlines do allow certified maintenance personnel to reposition aircraft.

Q: Are runways shut down at scheduled times for regular maintenance?

A: Yes, there are routine closures for a few hours each week for maintenance. The Port typically closes each runway for one-week twice a year to conduct larger maintenance projects (late spring and early fall).

Q: Does air cargo undergo a security scan?

A: Yes, air cargo that is allowed in secure areas of the airport is screened.

Terminal operations

Q. Will the master plan address Federal Inspection Services (FIS)?

A: Yes, needs for FIS facilities will be considered through the master plan update process.

Q. Would the Port consider providing access to electric wheelchairs to navigate the terminal?

A: The Port is committed to providing services to passengers needing assistance to get to/from their flights. While electric wheelchairs are not currently in use at PDX, these are something that could be considered in the future. Currently wheelchair services for customers are provided by airlines operating at PDX.

Airlines and tenants

Q: What will be the newest airline at PDX (as of October 2024)?

A: KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will begin service between PDX and Amsterdam on October 27, 2024.

Q: What percent of passengers at PDX travel on Alaska Airlines?

A: The amount varies by year. In the last five years, Alaska Airlines has accommodated about 40-45 percent of the total passengers at PDX.

Q: Is it cost-prohibitive for general aviation aircraft to use PDX?

A: The Port provides facilities for general aviation aircraft at each of its three airports, including PDX. Cost considerations are specific to the individual users of the general aviation facilities. Most general aviation activity takes place at the two general aviation airports, Hillsboro and Troutdale.

Q: How important is revenue from commercial leases, such as hotels, to PDX?

A: “Non-aeronautical” revenue sources are an important financial consideration for PDX and generally all commercial service airports.

Q: Does Boutique Air offer charter flights?

A: Boutique Air flies scheduled flights between PDX and Pendleton.

Q: Are hangars leased to airlines on a first-come, first-served basis?

A: Leases for hangars are negotiated between the Port’s real estate team and airlines.

Q: Is General Aviation for private flights?

A: General aviation activity is typically described as any aviation activity that is not commercial aviation (passenger and cargo). Examples include flight schools and private business jets.

Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF)

Q: Do ARFF staff transport patients to hospitals? Or is a separate ambulance service used?

A: No ARFF staff do not typically transport patients to hospitals.

Q: What is the most common type of call ARFF responds to?

A: 80-85% of calls received at ARFF are EMS-related (car accidents, trauma, heart attacks).

Q: How often do planes catch on fire?

A: It is very rare for planes to catch on fire.

Q: How was the color scheme for the ARFF equipment established?

A: The Fire Chief chose the striking and unique color combination used on the ARFF equipment.

Q: How much fire-fighting agent is stored on-site?

A: 600 gallons of fire-fighting agent is stored at ARFF, and there are 900 gallons on site at PDX in total. PDX also has one of the few ARFF teams with paramedics on-site.