

Flying under the radar

Flying under the radar, the aviation industry, Washington state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Commercial Aviation Coordinating Committee (CACC) are looking for a new airport site and commercial aviation expansion in Western Washington and the Puget Sound region (outside of King County), including in Thurston County and Olympia, by the end of this year.

Just as a heads up: Airport communities decline.

Normandy Park, Des Moines, Tukwila and Beacon Hill are the airport communities to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SeaTac). They have long battled with the decline of their communities.

Tufts University scientists conducted pollution research around Los Angeles and Boston Logan international airports. And so did King County Department of Health, supported by the University of Washington and others, on SeaTac. The study establishes the causal link in airport communities between pollution, poor public health, and economic inequity.

Yet the information is excluded from decisions by WSDOT and the CACC. Potential airport communities have the right to hear the good and the bad and protect themselves.

For the SeaTac airport communities, it is seemingly too late, but do we have to spread the same pollution and inequity to a new community?

Let the aviation industry clean itself up. Once it has viable quiet and clean propulsion, then we can talk about commercial aviation expansion again.

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