

From: MaryHelen Windell [mhwindell@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, October 07, 2006 9:04 PM
To: Mike Myers; Bonnie Onyon; Ken Ely; mhawskin1@good-sam.com; John Liebert; Jason Overstreet; Bruce Wolf
Cc: Sheri Sanchez
Subject: Blaine Airport Master Plan

Importance: High
October 7, 2006

Honorable Mayor, Mike Myers
Mayor Pro Tem, Bonnie Onyon
Council Members: Ken Ely, Charlie Hawkins, John Liebert, Jason Overstreet and Bruce Wolf

RE: The Blaine Airport Master Plan

As a native Washingtonian (my father was born in Bellingham in 1906) and a member of the Blaine community, I know the beauty of this area and can appreciate the challenges that the Blaine City Council members have to make. It is definitely a challenging time, but a very IMPORTANT time as to the impact of the decisions that are being made.

Today, I wish to address the Airport Master Plan. My position is that the airport is a valuable resource for the Blaine community and is irreplaceable.

The fact that both the FAA and Washington State's Department of transportation have approved the plan and are committed to funding the expansion would certainly indicate the value of keeping the airport and approving the Airport Master Plan. With the growth in this area, the Blaine Airport offers many resources and services and certainly will be more valuable and important as the years pass by. Its upgrade will definitely benefit the safety and services of the community. I understand that there are many Angel Flights from this airport which are used for medical purposes and other humanitarian needs. Certainly the location offers many cooperative services with the US Coast Guard and Homeland Security.

The monies to come from the Federal Government help provide the necessary upgrades and allow for the development of business opportunities in the Blaine area. There are examples from around the country of the value of small airports to their communities as transportation alternatives and enhancers.

Obviously, development challenges are a BIG piece of the requests facing the Blaine City Council, BUT none are the resource of the airport, and none can offer the community the valuable resources which provide the services and benefits of the airport. We, the people of Blaine, have the airport and government commitment for monies to improve it.

I strongly urge the Council to vote to implement the Airport Master Plan. Vote to keep the airport OPEN.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Helen Windell

MaryHelen Windell

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