



American Airports Corporation

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SPOTLIGHT ON...

GA Left Out of DOT Five-Year Plan

Posted by Janice Wood · July 5, 2010—www.generalaviationnews.com

There is a hole in the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) draft five-year plan, says the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). The plan, which covers the period from 2010 to 2015, almost completely ignores general aviation and its economic importance to the nation.

"In its current form the plan places more emphasis on travel by bicycle than on general aviation," wrote AOPA President and CEO Craig Fuller in comments on the draft plan sent to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. Furthermore, the plan seems to reintroduce user fees as the preferred way to fund the FAA.

The draft contains six broad goals that cut across all modes of transportation: Safety; State of Good Repair (Airports); Economic Competitiveness; Livable Communities; Environmental Sustainability; and U.S. DOT Organizational Excellence.

"The draft plan seems to almost completely ignore the economic importance of GA as well as the relevance of GA to five of the six strategic goals," Fuller wrote. "The role of GA with regard to the Safety Goal is the exception, albeit even here the focus on GA is sparse."

In AOPA's comments, Fuller notes that on page 19 of the draft plan, the Department of Transportation revives user fees as "the policy model of choice," essentially lifting language from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 budget support documents sent to Congress by the Obama administration. Aviation is the only mode of transportation for which a funding "solution" is proposed. That proposal, says AOPA, ignores both the reauthorization bill currently pending in Congress and the Obama administration's FY2011 budget proposal, neither of which include user fees.

"AOPA strongly opposes a policy direction that suggests user fees," wrote Fuller. "As we have stated in the past, user fees are divisive, inefficient, and inequitable – and are likely to have a crippling effect on the GA community, which is already struggling."

Environmental sustainability is one of the six strategic goals listed in the draft plan. But once again, there is no mention of general aviation, which is faced with the eventual demise of 100LL due to pressure from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"DOT leadership in this undertaking is imperative and we believe that the DOT draft plan should include a strategy for FAA as the lead agency to manage the effort," Fuller wrote. AOPA, as part of a coalition of aviation associations dealing with the avgas issue, believes the FAA should develop an integrated program to reduce lead emissions from piston-engine aircraft that balances environmental improvements with aviation safety, technical feasibility, and economic impact. The general aviation industry can and should be a part of the program.

The DOT draft plan contains one intriguing new strategic goal: livable communities. But even here, the plan ignores general aviation's potential contributions to meeting that goal.

"This section of the DOT strategic plan contains a signature initiative of President Obama, most notably to foster livable communities through place-based policies and initiatives that increase transportation choices and access to transportation services," noted Fuller. "No prior USDOT strategic plan contains a comparable initiative."

GA has a direct impact on that goal because of the role it plays connecting communities – the large, the small, and the very remote – ensuring access to essential services and providing emergency medical transportation and disaster relief. Additionally, GA serves as an engine that powers the growth of small communities and rural regions.

"AOPA's goal in providing this input," concluded Fuller, "is to ensure that the final plan recognizes the role and contributions of general aviation to the nation's transportation system."

For more information: AOPA.org, DOT.gov

FROM THE MANAGER

Airpark Way Enhancements

Construction is expected to begin soon on the enhanced Airport entrance at Osborne Street and Airpark Way. The project will include new pavement and sidewalk, landscaping, lighting and signage. It is anticipated that throughout the initial 2-3 weeks of the construction project access to/from the Airport will be restricted at that intersection. For any questions or additional information about the project, please contact Airport Management at (818) 896-5271.

Airport Association BBQ

The 7th Annual Whiteman Airport Association BBQ and aircraft display day were held at Whiteman Airport on July 11th. Association President, Don

Photo of the Month



Good Times On The Grass At Whiteman Airport

Good weather, good friends and good food. An overall good time was had by all in attendance of this year's Whiteman Airport Association BBQ.

Aviation Trivia

Who is the youngest person to fly solo around the world?

(answer on pg.2)

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**AUGUST AVIATION
COMMISSION MEETING**



**Compton/Woodley Airport
August 25, 2010
7:00pm**

Trivia Answer: Barrington Irving of Miami, FL
According to the Guinness Book of World Records, Barrington Irving at age 23 was the youngest person to fly solo around the world.
He left on March 23, 2007 from Opa-Locka Airport in a Columbia 400 made from donated parts, and returned to the same airport on June 27, 2007.

FROM THE MANAGER CONT..

Hagopian, and Secretary, Shellie Hagopian along with numerous Association member-volunteers did another terrific job in conducting the event.

Monthly MOVIE NIGHTS at WHP

The San Fernando Valley Ninety-Nines are presenting vintage aviation movies on the lawn at Whiteman Airport the third Sunday of each month at 7:30 p.m. throughout the summer months. Bring your lawn chairs and snacks and enjoy the free movies and great camaraderie.

Aviation Meetings & Seminars

For FAA meeting information, please see the FAA's website at <http://faasafety.gov>. Meetings are typically held in the Civil Air Patrol trailer or the Pilots Lounge. For information on aviation seminars regularly offered by Richard Mend, please visit his website at <http://www.mendaviation.com>.

Support your Airport Association

Please come out on the 3rd Thursday of each month to Rocky's Restaurant and join the Airport Association for \$10 a year in dues. The next Airport Association meeting will be held on August 19, 2010.



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
AUGUST 2010**



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|--------|--|
| 1 | 2 6:00 pm Pacoima Rotary Club (Rocky's) | 3 | 4 7:00 pm CAP Squadron 35 (CAP Trailer) | 5 | 6 | 7-8 (Sat & Sun) 10:00-2:00 Compton Antique Auto & Aircraft Display |
| 8 10:00-2:00 Whiteman Display Day | 9 6:00 pm Pacoima Rotary Club (Rocky's) | 10 7:30 pm Latin American Pilot's Assoc. (Rocky's) | 11 7:00 pm CAP Squadron 35 (CAP Trailer) | 12 | 13 | 14 All Day Fox Airfield Open Hangar Day |
| 15 10:00-2:00 Brackett Anti- que Aircraft & Auto Display | 16 6:00 pm Pacoima Rotary Club (Rocky's) | 17 | 18 7:00 pm CAP Squadron 35 (CAP Trailer) | 19 7:00 Whiteman Airport Ass. (Rocky's) | 20 | 21 9:30 am EAA Chapter 40 (Rocky's) |
| 22 9:00-1:00 El Monte Vin- tage Airplane & Auto Display | 23 6:00 pm Pacoima Rotary Club (Rocky's) | 24 | 25 7:00 pm CAP Squadron 35 (CAP Trailer) | 26 | 27 | 29 10:30 am Young Eagles (Grassy Area Adj. to Pilot's Lounge) |
| 29 | 30 6:00 pm Pacoima Rotary Club (Rocky's) | 31 | | | | |