

Public Works Update

February 3, 2021

10:32 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Josh Metcalf, Erik Martin

Guests: Johanna Jones, Susan DeLaire, Edna Fund, Claudia Yaw, Traci Dutton, Andrew Dutton, Joe Martin, Julie (no last name provided), Johanna Jones

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Josh Metcalf provided a brief history on the Toledo airport:

- Airports moved from Community Development to Public Works in 2019
- Taxiway project completed in summer 2020
- There is little revenue
- Main revenue is General Fund transfers as well as donation boxes
- County owns several hangars at Toledo airport
- Many of the hangars have old leases (30- to 50-year leases)
- County owns the land, individuals own the majority of the hangars
- County received FAA money to improve taxiway
- State Legislature has mandated a regional airport study, which is overseen by Washington State Department of Transportation
- Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission has been reviewing potential sites as part of the regional study
- BOCC asked that the Toledo airport be reviewed as a potential site
- Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission included Toledo on its list of six potential sites
- The commission's "short list" has been extended through January 2022, pushing the decision out to 2024
- A group opposed to having Toledo considered as a potential regional site has formed

Commissioner Stamper said the Toledo site has only a handful of acres, opposed to the hundreds to thousands of acres available at other sites on the list. He noted that the chances of Toledo being selected as a regional site are very slim. He said Toledo has 15 or so acres that could be devoted to hangar space. He said having the airport's name publicized on the short list could help it qualify for future funding.

Josh and Commissioner Stamper said the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will hold a virtual meeting on the topic at 9 a.m. Feb. 16.

Josh discussed concerns about rail traffic and the need for transportation infrastructure.

Commissioner Pollock discussed the need for an economic development study regarding development at the airport.

Erik Martin said the county commissioned such a study in 2010-11.

Josh said the regional committee will evaluate improvement needs, etc., as part of its process.

Traci Dutton voiced concerns about the potential impacts a regional airport would have on Toledo.

Commissioner Stamper said he will discuss the topic during a meeting in Toledo later in the day.

Joe Martin voiced concerns about the potential impacts a regional airport would have on Toledo. He urged the commissioners to remove Lewis County from the state's list of potential sites.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.