



Washington Airports Task Force

2008 Priorities

The Task Force has a 25-year track record of quietly producing measurable benefits, and of generating awareness for the critical role played by air transportation in the maintenance of our region's prosperity and quality of life. These benefits have produced time and cost savings for commuters, travelers, companies and airlines, in addition to expanding the market base for local companies. Addressing the following priorities will do the same. For many of these initiatives, persistence, timing and the ability to seize opportunities rapidly are critical, and therefore the Task Force will apply its resources when it sees opportunity.

Air Service Development

Strategic Goal

To sustain the long-term expansion of international service, the WATF will work with the Airports Authority to make Dulles the most business friendly gateway for the airlines on the east coast. That means effective air traffic control, federal security services, and ground access; compatible land uses as well as user-friendly airport capacity and Open Skies.

Main Tactical Priorities

- Support the Airports Authority's plan to build the fifth runway before the EIS approval expires.
- Put the purchasing power of the business community and travel industry behind the Airports Authority's efforts to secure service on specific routes.
- Put grass roots support behind the Airports Authority work to improve the airport infrastructure, passenger service quality and related federal issues.

International Aviation Policy

Through USA-BIAS or by other means, the WATF will:

- Support DOT/State Department efforts to negotiate the second phase of the US-EU agreement, as well as support further liberalization initiatives.
- Work for effective use of the US-EU Joint Committee.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

The WATF will:

- Through the Model Port Initiative, pursue a 30-minute maximum team standard for the clearance of international arriving passengers from plane to FIS exit. (FIS is the federal name given to a Customs hall.)
- Pursue the introduction at Dulles of US Pass, an automated entry system that has been demonstrated but not applied. Potentially 20% of Dulles arriving international travelers could use this system.
- Pursue these three related issues as opportunity occurs.
 1. The application of the \$17.50 CBP inspection fee for the purpose intended at the port of entry where it is collected from arriving international passengers.

2. Seek to harmonize the inspection of international travelers at their points of departure with TSA standards so that connecting passengers do not have to be re-inspected before boarding their domestic flight after clearing Customs.
3. Encourage pre-clearance at major international departure points.

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

The WATF should develop a white paper to propose:

- A reinstatement of the 10-minute screening standard and demonstrate how it could be achieved at Dulles and Reagan National.
- Rapid creation of inline baggage inspection systems at Dulles and Reagan National.

Air Traffic Control (ATC)

- Sustain a mid-Atlantic coalition of business organizations to support FAA Reauthorization.
- Look for ways to make Dulles and the Washington region the pilot project for the application of Next Generation ATC technologies.
- Work for local ATC improvements through participation in the Dulles Air Traffic Control User Group.
- Identify other strategic issues affecting the cost effectiveness of Dulles, such as the increased availability of Category 3A, a near blind landing aid or an RNP equivalent, to reduce the diversions that are particularly expensive for large long range aircraft.

Airport Access

- Complete the Dulles Loop implementation plan, then seek its funding and implementation.
- Support the construction of rail to Dulles and Loudoun County.
- Establish working groups to pursue improved access between Prince William County and Dulles, and two new Potomac bridges generally north of the airport.
- Support other initiatives that will improve access to Dulles including improvements to I-66 between the Dulles Corridor and the District of Columbia, road improvements within the Dulles Corridor, and the Western Transportation Corridor.
- As appropriate, support initiatives to apply new transit thinking in areas that affect airport access.

Other Issues of Importance

- Support maintenance of the existing balance between National and its neighbors.
- Sustain current good county land use policies.
- Support as appropriate the National Air and Space Museum and other aviation education initiatives.
- Investigate work force housing issues, and bring public and private sector airport employers together to create a solution.
- As a regional aviation voice in a local economy dependent on air transportation WATF should, as opportunity warrants:
 - speak up on global warming issues as they affect aviation and by inference our local economy and
 - seek to educate our elected officials at the State and Local levels as well as our Congressional Delegation.