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January 21, 2025

Alex Thomas, ODAV Planning & Programs Manager
Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV)
3040 25th Street SE
Salem, OR 97302

TRANSMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: Alex.R.THOMAS@odav.oregon.gov

RE: Aurora State Airport (UAO) Master Plan Alternatives – Concerns/Recommendations

Dear Alex:

On behalf of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), the world's largest general aviation membership organization, we write to express our concerns over the proposed Aurora State Airport (UAO) master plan update and recommend the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV) consider the alternatives provided by the UAO aviation community.

We wholeheartedly agree with the position held by many of the aeronautical users of UAO and Planning Action Committee (PAC) that NONE of the three alternatives originally proposed reflected a fair and reasonable future for UAO development that would have been in the best interest of the UAO aviation ecosystem. On a related note, AOPA concurs with the requests made by the Aurora Airport Improvement Association (AAIA) in their letter dated January 21, 2025 "*January 21, 2025 Comment Letter on Behalf of Aurora Airport Improvement Association for Aurora State Airport Master Plan – ODAV Updated Refined Proposed Preferred Alternative*" through their legal counsel Wendie Kellington as it reflects a rational perspective with the best interests of the airport users, tenants, and broader communities in mind.

Although AOPA always supports Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) design standard compliance, it is significantly easier to do so when conditions to meet standards can be met without unreasonable limitations or impacts being imposed on our members. In particular, the previously planned demolition of hangars would have been very counter-productive, and we congratulate ODAV, the PAC, and the entire Aurora area aviation community for collaborating to get this alternative removed from the current plan.

AOPA also supports the following:

- Lengthening of the runway that has been planned since the 1970's as it is vital for the safe operations of the aircraft currently utilizing UAO and we believe this project is long past-due and that it should be made a priority with no strings attached
- Improving airport infrastructure (septic systems in particular) to ensure they fully comply with FAA standards (if current design/construction conflicts with FAA guidance due to airport designation changes)

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- Improving separation-related safety objectives by acquiring property to enable both extending the main ODAV-managed ramp/taxi-lane south to connect with taxiway A while simultaneously improving airport ground vehicle safety and flow
 - Particularly as this suggested purchase would represent a significant savings when compared to other previously suggested alternatives, this land purchase should be added to the UAO plan purchase list as among your highest priority projects on your Capital Improvement Plan.

Please let us know if there is anything else AOPA can do to help ensure that the right decisions are made for the future of the Aurora State airport and that those decisions are in support of the entire UAO airport user, tenant/owner, and surrounding communities. Feel free to contact me with respect to this topic or any other matters impacting general aviation. I can be reached at email: brad.schuster@aopa.org or by phone: 202-851-7502.

Sincerely,



Brad Schuster, AOPA
Alaska and Northwest Mountain Regional Manager

Cc:
ODAV Director
ODAV State Airports Manager
JLA Public Involvement Strategist