



## AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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January 12, 2007

Mr. Jeff Williams, ATO-402  
Federal Aviation Administration  
470 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 4102  
Washington, DC 20024

RE: AOPA request for T-route in Oregon

Dear Mr. Williams,

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), representing the interests of nearly 410,000 members and aviation enthusiasts nationwide, requests the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) establish an Area Navigation (RNAV) low-altitude Tango route (T-route) in Western Oregon.

A T-route would be extremely beneficial between Newport VOR (ONP) and the CRAAF intersection of V287 to allow general aviation and Life Flight operations more direct routing to the existing Victor airway structure. Current operations to and from the Oregon coast are limited by the Victor airway structure and an RNAV route between ONP and CRAAF would reduce the miles required for operations inland.

In addition, we strongly urge you to ensure any new route has lower minimum enroute altitudes (MEA's) than the current Victor airways. Lower MEA's allow pilots to more easily avoid icing conditions, which prevail much of the year in Western Oregon. In order to obtain the lowest MEA possible, the FAA may also want to consider using communication gaps, a tool that permits aircraft to fly through an area where contact with Air Traffic Control is unavailable. Pilots understand that this may reduce the capacity of the route, but the safety benefit may make it advantageous in this case.

We appreciate the continued efforts of the FAA to utilize and implement T-routes and lower MEA's in areas currently limited by the existing Victor airway infrastructure. If there is additional information we can provide to expedite this request, please contact me at 301-695-2227.

Sincerely,

Heidi J. Williams  
Director  
Air Traffic Services