



601 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20004

T. 202-509-9670
www.aopa.org

March 10, 2023

Mayor Janice Deccio
129 N 2nd Street
Yakima, WA 98901

TRANSMITTED VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: janice.deccio@yakimawa.gov

Re: Demolition of Yakima Airport T-Hangars

Dear Ms. Deccio:

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest general aviation association including almost 10,000 members across Washington state and 117 members located at Yakima airport (YKM). AOPA has grave concerns about current plans to demolish 20 T-hangars located in the South GA Landside Area **and is requesting the Yakima airport delay the demolition of these hangars until such time as the Airport Layout Plan (ALP)-projected hangars are built and ready for occupancy.**

After extensive analysis of the Master Plan and ALP, and helpful conversations with the acting YKM airport director and Assistant City manager, we recognize that the current demolition proposal aligns with the approved YKM master plan and that the master plan calls for development of as many as 126 new hangars over time. Unfortunately, none of that new hangar capacity exists right now and all of the existing hangar tenants would be forced to store their aircraft outside or at other airports. We also understand there are currently no bids to begin development of the projected new hangars.

The loss of the existing 20 hangars before new hangars are developed will cause significant financial impact to the hangar tenants and a loss of revenue for the airport. There is a nationwide shortage of general aviation hangars and these hangar tenants have few if any reasonable hangar options in vicinity of Yakima to protect their valuable investments.

AOPA applauds the City of Yakima for its long-term plan to invest in the airport and expand the number of general aviation hangars. We hope you will seriously consider alternate phasing of this project, so existing tenants are not displaced.

Please consider me a resource on this issue and other matters impacting general aviation. I can be reached at email: brad.schuster@aopa.org or by phone: 202-851-7502.


Sincerely,

AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION

Demolition of Yakima Airport T-Hangars

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BS' or similar initials, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brad Schuster, AOPA

Northwest Mountain Regional Manager

Cc:

Yakima Airport Manager (acting)

Yakima Assistant City Manager