

LONGER RUNWAY NEEDED AT ROSEBURG REGIONAL AIRPORT

The Oregon Transportation Commission recently announced the implementation of the ConnectOregon III grant program. This program will make \$100 million available statewide for multi-modal transportation projects that provide economic development benefits and impacts on Oregon's surface transportation system.

We believe that extending the current runway length at the Roseburg Regional Airport from 4600 to 5000 feet will address the criteria as set forth in ConnectOregon. The cost for this project is estimated at \$1.5 million. The primary benefit, from an economic development standpoint, is that the proposed project will accommodate the larger aircraft that use the Airport, supporting the commercial industrial needs in Roseburg. We are also aware of several corporations who have viewed the runway limitations at the Airport in a negative light when deciding to locate to Roseburg. In addition, we believe that if the community is ever going to be able to attract expanded charter or commercial airline services, a runway length of at least 5000 feet will be necessary.

This month, the Economic Development Commission, Airport Commission and City Council will consider this grant request and certify the \$300,000 local match requirement. The Douglas County Industrial Development Board recently agreed to recommend that the Douglas County Commission provide \$150,000 of this match. The City appreciates this generous commitment which recognizes the regional importance of the airport as an economic development tool.

We anticipate that the competition for ConnectOregon III grant dollars will be significant with lots of ideas intended to improve economic conditions within the State. Applications are due November 20, 2009, with the Oregon Transportation Commission planning to make a final decision in August 2010. I want to thank City Staff and community members who have devoted significant time and energy towards putting this application together.

Respectfully

P. Eric Swanson
City Manager