



Electric Aircraft Charging Station Grant Application

Chris Paolini
Airport Senior Manager
June 22, 2026



Today's Presentation

Advisory Item – No Action Requested

- Electric Aircraft Charging Station project grant application approval
- Resolution: Port commitment to provide WSDOT grant matching funds for a WSDOT grant

Background

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

- At the direction of the Commission, staff have prioritized exploring infrastructure projects that would support the aviation industry's transition to electric aircraft.
- Key questions included:
 - Identifying the type of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) aircraft would most likely operate at the Olympia Regional Airport.
 - Identifying the type of ground support services required.
 - Selecting the optimal on-airfield location while complying with FAA regulations.
- In 2026, staff identified the most feasible charging station site and partnered with an aviation tenant for a full-service solution.

Type of Aircraft



Ground Support Services Needed



Location



Background

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

- May 15, 2026: WSDOT announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity under the Sustainable Aviation Grant program to fund projects during the 2027-2029 biennium.
- May 21, 2026: Airport staff, consultants, and the Director of WSDOT Aviation met with representatives from Beta Technologies during an airport site visit to discuss feasibility.
- July 17, 2026: WSDOT grant application deadline.

Project Summary

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

This project would consist of the following:

- Increasing Puget Sound Energy (PSE) electrical power at the edge of airport property from 208-volt 3-phase power to 480-volt 3-phase power.
- Installation of approximately 750 feet of electrical conduit from the PSE equipment to the new electric aircraft charging station site.
- Installation of a fully operational electric aircraft charging station.

Project Summary

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application



Benefits

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

This project would:

- Place the Port of Olympia at the forefront of the electric aircraft transition in the Pacific Northwest and West Coast.
- Provide opportunities to support quieter zero emission electric aircraft in Thurston County in support of flight training programs, business and personal transportation, and support local tourism.
- Provide infrastructure that may support tourism by offering environmentally friendly transportation options that reduce vehicle congestion in surrounding areas.
- Provide a new revenue source for the airport through usage fees.

Project Funding and Cost

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

- The WSDOT Sustainable Aviation Grant can fund up to 100% of total eligible project costs.
- WSDOT has informed applicants that a voluntary grant match for a percentage of the project cost will make the application package more competitive.
- Staff is recommending a ten-percent sponsor match to make our application more competitive.
- The ten-percent match will be funded by airport capital project funds.
- This project will be added to the 2027 Capital Investment Plan and budget.

Project Funding and Cost

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

Estimated Project cost and funding are as follows:

- Estimated Project Cost:

Planning/Engineering:	\$150,000
-----------------------	-----------

Charging Station:	\$350,000
-------------------	-----------

<u>Infrastructure and Installation:</u>	<u>\$700,000</u>
---	------------------

TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$1,200,000
----------------------------	--------------------

- Funding Sources:

WSDOT Grant (90%):	\$1,080,000
--------------------	-------------

Airport Capital Project Funds (10%):	\$ 120,000
--------------------------------------	------------

Project Timeline

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

- July 17, 2026: Grant applications are due
- October 1, 2026: WSDOT submits prioritized list of recommended projects to legislature.
- July 1, 2027: WSDOT sends grant award letters
- 2027/2028: Begin construction late 2027 and completion anticipated in 2028.
- June 30, 2029: Deadline for spending grant funds

Alignment with Vision 2050

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

Focus Area: Airport Functions

Goal: Maximize the economic and community value of the Olympia Regional Airport in accordance with FAA Master Plan regulations.

Action Item #30: Research strategies used by other airports of similar size to determine best practices and opportunities.

Action Item #32: Evaluate options for private charter, tourist and freight transportation.

Alignment with Vision 2050

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

Focus Area: Environmental Sustainability

Goal: Emphasize sustainability in all planning and actions and provide regular updates to the community.

Action Item #37: Study and implement priority climate adaptation and mitigation strategies in concert with local partners.

Environmental Considerations

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

The NEPA process for this project is in process and will be complete prior to the start of any construction activity. It is anticipated this project will be exempt under:

- **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Order 1050-1G; B-2.4.** Categorical Exclusions for Facility Siting, Construction, and Maintenance. This category includes the list of CATEXs for FAA actions involving acquisition, repair, replacement, maintenance, or upgrading of grounds, infrastructure, buildings, structures, or **facilities that generally are minor in nature**.
 - (f) Federal financial assistance, licensing, **Airport Layout Plan (ALP) approval**, or FAA construction or limited expansion of accessory on-site structures, including storage buildings, garages, hangars, t-hangars, small parking areas, signs, fences, and other essentially similar **minor development items**.
 - (n) **Minor expansion of facilities**, including the addition of equipment such as telecommunications equipment, on an existing facility where no additional land is required, ... **Additions may include** antennas, **concrete pad**, and **minor trenching for cable**.
 - (o) **Minor trenching and backfilling** where the surface are restored and the excavated material is protected against erosion and run-off during the construction period.

Environmental Considerations

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

The SEPA process for this project was complete shortly after the agenda packets were completed. This project will be SEPA exempt under:

- **Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-800 (23)** exempts: Utilities. The utility-related actions listed below shall be exempt... The exemption **includes installation and construction**, relocation when required by other governmental bodies, repair, replacement, maintenance, operation or alteration that does not change the action from an exempt class.
 - (c) **All electric facilities, lines, equipment or appurtenances, not including substations, with an associated voltage of 55,000 volts or less;** the overbuilding of existing distribution lines (55,000 volts or less) with transmission lines (up to and including 115,000 volts); within existing rights of way or developed utility corridors, all electric facilities, lines, equipment or appurtenances, not including substations, with an associated voltage of 115,000 volts or less; **and the undergrounding of all electric facilities, lines, equipment or appurtenances.**

Environmental Considerations

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

- This project aligns perfectly with the Port's desire to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as presented in the Port's Draft Sustainability Action Plan and Strategy.
 - *"The Port of Olympia is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions across our operations and facilities. We will pursue energy efficiency improvements, transition to low- and zero-emission vehicles and equipment where feasible, expand the use of renewable energy, and support cleaner fuels and technologies in maritime and aviation activities."*

Next Steps

Electric Aircraft Charging Station WSDOT Grant Application

- Per policy 1008, commission approval is required to apply for a WSDOT grant when the project is not on the Capital Investment Plan.
- Additionally, WSDOT requires a resolution from the sponsor entity affirming funds availability and commitment to providing grant match funds for a capital project.
- Commission action will be requested at the July 13, 2026 meeting to adopt the proposed resolution and authorize the Executive Director to submit a WSDOT grant application due by July 17, 2026.

Questions and Comments

Questions and Comments

Suggested Motion...

“...move to adopt resolution 2026-06 affirming the Port’s commitment to provide grant matching funds for the Olympia Regional Airport’s Electric Aircraft Charging Station project and authorize the Executive Director to submit an application for a WSDOT grant for the Airport’s Electric Aircraft Charging Station project.”