PORT of OLYMPIA
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FAQ - Olympia Regional Airport Legislative Session Flights:

From January through April 2027, a small nine (9) passenger plane will fly one round trip a week between Olympia Regional Airport and Spokane, mainly for legislators during session.

What is happening? SeaPort Airlines, a family owned and operated airlines, will offer a scheduled passenger and commuter flight between Olympia and Spokane (Felts Field- SFF) during the 2027 legislative session. It is a seasonal service, not a permanent route.

When does it start and end? The first flight is January 8, 2027. The last flight is April 30, 2027, when session ends. Starting November 5, 2026, you can book a flight at Seaport Airlines website here www.flyseaportair.com

How often will it fly? One round trip (2 flights) per week. Flights arrive in Olympia on Sundays and depart Olympia Fridays.

What kind of plane? A single engine, nine-seat turboprop aircraft (Pilatus PC-12). Comparable aircraft routinely operate at the Olympia Regional Airport. The aircraft runs exclusively on jet-A fuel and does not rely on leaded aviation gasoline.

Who can ride? The service is designed around legislators and staff traveling between Eastern Washington and the Capitol. Tickets are also available to the public.

Why Spokane?
Many Eastern Washington legislators face five- to six hour drives each way to Olympia during session. A direct Sunday flight allows them to arrive at the Capitol in time for the start of the work week.

Does this cost the Port or taxpayers anything? The Port of Olympia is not paying for this service. There are no subsidies, revenue guarantees, or new construction associated with it.

Who pays for the flights? Passengers buy tickets directly from the airline.

Does the airport need new facilities? No. Passengers will use existing FBO terminal space. No new buildings, parking, or runway work are necessary.

Will I notice more noise? Unlikely. The service adds two flights a week to an airport that already handles about 206 takeoffs and landings a day. The plane is a small single-engine aircraft, similar to many that use OLM today.

What time will the flights operate? Sunday arrival and Friday departure times.

- SUNDAY: Spokane (SFF) – Olympia (OLM) – Departure 3:25pm, Arriving 4:45pm
- FRIDAY: Olympia (OLM) – Spokane (SFF) – Departure 5:10pm, Arriving 6:20pm

Will flight paths change? No. The aircraft will use the same runways and standard approach and departure procedures as other planes at OLM.

What about the airport's protected species? The service needs does not affect habitat for the Mazama pocket gopher or streaked horned lark.

Is this "commercial airline service" at OLM? This is technically commercial service, but because the plane only seats 9 paying passengers, it can fly in and out of the same FBO terminal that small private airplanes do. Larger scheduled airline service, with planes of more than nine passenger seats, requires the airport to comply with FAA rules that require a terminal building, security screening and baggage handling capabilities among other things. This service uses a nine-seat plane for which these additional requirements do not apply.

Is the airline regulated? Yes. The airline is certificated and overseen by the FAA under Part 135, with the same safety rules that apply to all commuter and charter operators.

Is this the first step toward expanding the airport? No. The Port has no initiatives or plans to expand the airport’s footprint. In addition, this service needs no new facilities and does not change the airport's footprint, certification, or role.

Could this lead to bigger planes or more flights later? Any proposal to grow scheduled service, including larger aircraft that would require Part 139 certification, would be separate from this service.

Hasn't Olympia had airline service before? Yes. The last scheduled commuter flights from Olympia ended in 2004. This is the first scheduled service since then, and it is limited to one seasonal route.

What happens after April 2027? The service ends with the legislative session. The Port will share a short public recap in mid-2027: how many flights ran, ridership, and any community feedback received. Any future season would be announced in advance.