

Public Comment for Oregon Department of Aviation Board Meeting

The Oregon Department of Aviation claims to value the following: customer service, collaboration, integrity, passion, and healthy relationships. The stated vision is an “integrated Aviation System benefiting all Oregonians.” The disregard for public relations with stakeholders of the Independence State Airport overlooks all of the departments stated values. Oversight of local city codes, permits, and site accessibility were egregious during fence construction. Constructed gates did not meet fire code. Why is it that a public citizen must communicate with local fire officials, research the codes and hold ODA accountable? A stop order was placed on the project on behalf of a single stakeholders ability to recognize a safety hazard. Removing previously installed gates and replacing them to meet codes increased project fees. The project is unfinished as signage with gate codes has not been installed. Appropriate preplanning and a site study to determine the impact on businesses and stakeholders would have been appreciated. The board has been led to believe the project was smooth sailing, which simply is not the case. Trust with stakeholders and the ODA has been compromised as no one has been held accountable. Accountability and action are necessary to uphold ODA’s values and goals. The board should review current interagency practices to revitalize public relations with a focus on currently stated values. Accountability, action and transparency is necessary to rebuild trust with the stakeholders. An airport that continues to be plagued by gate closures is inaccessible and the continuation of disregard for the stated values leaves stakeholders frustrated. The need for change is imperative.