

From: [Oregon Department of Aviation](#)
To: [CLARK Cathy Rb](#)
Cc: [HERRERA Holly M](#)
Subject: FW: public comment, Dec 1 board meeting
Date: Monday, November 28, 2022 3:40:14 PM

From: Brent DeHart <brentdehart@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022 2:02 PM
To: Oregon Department of Aviation <mail.aviation@ODAV.oregon.gov>
Subject: public comment, Dec 1 board meeting

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Hello- I am writing to provide public input for the December 1, 2022 State Aviation Board Meeting.

From: Brent DeHart, Representing the Fly Salem Committee and the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce, recipient of a ROAR grant.

Fly Salem is pleased to report we have successfully recruited a passenger airline that has plans to launch 4 destinations from KSLE, Salem. Their deadline for airport and TSA readiness is in May of 2023, when they would start flights twice per week to both the LA Basin and to Las Vegas. They also would start SF Bay Area and Phoenix flights, also beginning with 2 flights per week, in 2023. The aircraft is a 737-700. The airline is in process negotiating both a terminal use agreement and the Minimum Revenue Guarantee agreement with the City of Salem,

Travel Salem has secured the \$350,000 private sector match for the SCASD grant to total a \$1.2 million incentive.

A state fund allocation was secured for over \$540,000 to purchase needed ground services equipment, and those purchases are in process. Equipment needs include a passenger loading ramp, luggage carts, belt loaders, and tugs, potable water and lavatory servicing carts, and de-icing equipment.

We appreciate the support given us by Senators Merkley and Wyden, US Representative Shrader, Oregon House member Moore-Green, the US DOT in awarding an \$850,000 SCASD grant, and of course we could not have recruited without the support of the ODA and the Board in awarding the ROAR Grant.

Our concern is the timing of airport terminal readiness to accommodate the TSA screening equipment. The airline has indicated that if it can't start SLE service prior to June 1, then they will assign their available aircraft to another market, and our 5-year successful effort will be lost.

We have no other airline prepared to start in 2023, and ROAR Grant funds that have enabled the effort are diminishing, so the viability of a continued effort are in considerable doubt. The City of Salem is working toward that goal of a May 1 readiness, but as of now has not committed that it will be done by then.

I am available to ODA staff at any time should there be any questions. It would be of extreme interest if there is any fund, grant, or process that can aid the City of Salem in this readiness timeline and the funding of improvements.

Respectfully, Brent DeHart

Brent DeHart 503-551-6463 Mobile

President, Salem Aviation Fueling and

Chair, Fly Salem Steering Committee www.flysle.com