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Public Comment Topic	Temporary Rulemaking for Violations and Civil Penalties for Unauthorized Access and Vehicle / Pedestrian Deviations at the Aurora State Airport

Public Comment

The Oregon Department of Aviation's focus on reducing operational risk and improving surface safety is important and necessary, and safety remains the highest priority for those who operate, work, and fly at the airport every day. As part of that shared commitment to safety, it is important to pursue solutions that address the underlying causes of safety events, not just their outcomes.

In that context, many within the Aurora State Airport community strongly believe the development of a dedicated Vehicle Service Road is an effective and necessary measure to reduce Vehicle and Pedestrian Deviations (V/PDs).

Many V/PDs at Aurora are the result of inadequate surface circulation infrastructure, not intentional noncompliance. In the absence of a designated service route, authorized vehicles are often forced to travel through aprons or ramp space to access hangars and airport facilities, increasing the risk of unintended incursions into aircraft movement areas.

A clearly defined Vehicle Service Road that runs across both public and private property, from the north end to the south end of the larger KUAO site, would directly reduce V/PDs by separating ground traffic from aircraft operations, providing a predictable and safe circulation path, and greatly reduce the need for ground traffic to come in close contact with non-movement lines. This would improve operational safety, reduce ATC intervention, and align with FAA best practices emphasizing prevention through design.

Addressing V/PDs through infrastructure improvements is more effective than relying on enforcement alone. A Vehicle Service Road represents a practical, proactive solution that would significantly improve surface safety at Aurora State Airport.

Equally important is that solutions to reduce V/PDs continue to be developed in close collaboration with actual airport users, including tenants, operators, and service providers who navigate the airfield daily. Engaging those users in the planning and implementation process is essential to ensuring that proposed improvements are practical, effective, and used as intended.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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