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Public Comment Topic	Pacific City Airport SOAR Funding Initiatives & Proposed Defunding

Public Comment

Dear Oregon Department of Aviation,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed defunding of Pacific City Airport (KPC) and, more importantly, what that decision could mean for the airport's future and the community it serves.

I am a part-time airport resident on Ruepell Avenue, a volunteer and member of the Pacific City Airport Board of Directors, an aviation professional, and a pilot in training. I have a personal investment in seeing KPC remain a safe, vibrant, and sustainable community airport, with aspirations of eventually flying my own family in and out of Pacific City.

Not long ago, we became residents of Pacific City and navigated the intricate permitting process to offer our home as a vacation rental to visiting pilots. Our goal is to help make access to KPC more affordable and convenient while keeping the needs of visiting pilots in mind.

Living at Pacific City Airport has been a lifelong childhood dream of mine, rooted in humble beginnings as one of three siblings raised by a schoolteacher and a mother who worked in retail to provide us with the opportunity for a bright future. This airport is more than an incredible asset; it is a community hub supported by aviation enthusiasts and proactive volunteers who want to make KPC accessible for generations to come.

The airport has also become a meaningful part of my young daughter's life. At just three years old, she is already being positively influenced by the people and activities surrounding KPC. She enjoys meeting the friendly pilots who regularly visit, watching the fascinating aircraft that safely operate from the airstrip, and, perhaps most of all, listening for the sound of an inbound aircraft so she can run outside and watch it arrive. These moments illustrate how a community airport can connect children and adults alike with general aviation and create lasting interest in aviation for future generations.

I recognize that the current budget shortfall facing ODAV is serious and that difficult decisions must be made. I also appreciate ODAV's responsibility to carefully manage limited public resources. However, I respectfully ask that ODAV consider an alternative approach that does not place a disproportionate share of this financial burden on the Pacific City airport community and surrounding region.

In particular, I ask that ODAV reconsider the proposed withdrawal of the \$1.5 million in SOAR funding currently identified for KPC.

These funds support time-sensitive infrastructure improvements and permitting efforts that have already required significant coordination and commitment. ODAV and Friends of Pacific City Airport have invested considerable time and resources in advancing these efforts. Preserving the opportunity to move these projects forward, including FEMA-related infrastructure planning and approvals, would protect that investment and maintain important momentum.

The planned SOAR funding would address critical needs at KPC, including improvements to mitigate seasonal flooding that affects our house and local dory fishing professionals, apron expansion, and an emergency access road. These projects go beyond improvements to an airport facility; they directly support airport safety, operational effectiveness, emergency preparedness, and the resilience of the surrounding community. One of the critical improvements is the airport drainage system, which would help address recurring flooding and improve the reliability and resilience of the airport and surrounding properties.

I respectfully ask ODAV to remain committed to the planned SOAR investment at KPC and work collaboratively with the airport, local residents, and regional partners to find a solution to the current funding challenge. I believe KPC can be part of that solution-not simply as a recipient of funding, but as a community partner in building a safer, more resilient, and more accessible future for Pacific City and the surrounding region.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your continued commitment to Oregon's aviation system. I would welcome the opportunity to participate in a constructive conversation about how we can work together to preserve these important investments at KPC.

Sincerely,

Mike Gorski
Pacific City, Oregon
Part-Time KPC Airport Resident
Pacific City Airport Board of Directors
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Alum - A&P

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