Outlook

Public Comment Submission – Life Flight Network - Aurora State Airport Master Plan

From Natalie Stone <nstone@lifeflight.org>
Date Wed 9/30/2026 2:26 PM
To Oregon Department of Aviation <mail.aviation@ODAV.oregon.gov>

1 attachment (489 KB)
LFN Letter to ODAV 9.30.2026.pdf;

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Dear Director Sugahara and Members of the Oregon State Aviation Board,

On behalf of Ben Clayton, Chief Executive Officer of Life Flight Network, please find attached a public comment letter regarding the Aurora State Airport Master Plan.

We respectfully request that this letter be included in the public record and considered as part of the Board's review of the Master Plan.

Thank you,

Natalie Stone | Senior Executive Administrative Assistant
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Office 503.678.4364 |Fax 503.678.4369 |www.LifeFlight.org
Pronouns: she/her

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Recall: Public Comment Submission – Life Flight Network - Aurora State Airport Master Plan

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Natalie Stone would like to recall the message, "Public Comment Submission – Life Flight Network - Aurora State Airport Master Plan".

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LIFE FLIGHT NETWORK™

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September 30, 2026

Oregon Department of Aviation
Oregon State Aviation Board

RE: Request to Delay Adoption of the Aurora State Airport Master Plan and Invitation to Visit Life Flight Network's Aurora Facilities

Dear Director Sugahara and Members of the Oregon State Aviation Board:

Life Flight Network respectfully requests that the Oregon Department of Aviation and the Oregon State Aviation Board postpone any vote on adoption of the Aurora State Airport Master Plan.

Since our prior request, Life Flight Network has continued to engage with State officials, local stakeholders, and other interested parties regarding the Master Plan and its potential impact on our operations. While those discussions have been constructive, significant concerns remain about the proposed plan's effect on Life Flight Network's ability to continue operating from Aurora. In addition to serving as our administrative headquarters, Aurora is a critical maintenance and operational hub for our entire five-state footprint housing multiple air medical teams and aircraft and supporting Oregon's emergency medical transportation and emergency response infrastructure.

Life Flight Network supports thoughtful airport development and remains committed to working collaboratively with the Department, the Board, and other stakeholders. A delay in the Board's vote on the Master Plan would provide additional time to continue these discussions and work toward solutions that appropriately balance the long-term goals of the airport with the critical public safety, healthcare, and emergency response functions supported at Aurora.

We also would like to extend an invitation to members of the Oregon State Aviation Board to visit and tour Life Flight Network's facilities at Aurora State Airport. We understand that Board members are expected to participate in a scheduled airport site visit on December 1-2, and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you during that visit. We would also be pleased to host Board members in advance of the scheduled site visit at a mutually convenient time so that you can better understand our operations, facilities, aircraft, crews, and the vital role Aurora serves in supporting emergency medical transport throughout Oregon and the region.

Board members interested in arranging a visit may contact me directly at bclayton@lifeflight.org, copying my assistant, Natalie Stone at nstone@lifeflight.org, to coordinate a convenient date and time.

Before taking final action on a Master Plan that could significantly affect Life Flight Network's long-term ability to operate from Aurora, we believe it would be valuable for Board members to have the opportunity to observe firsthand the operational, clinical, and emergency response activities conducted from our Aurora base. We would welcome that opportunity and stand ready to accommodate Board members' schedules.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Department and Board postpone any vote on adoption of the Aurora State Airport Master Plan to allow these discussions and evaluations to continue and to provide Board members an opportunity to gain additional familiarity with Life Flight Network's operations at Aurora.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to serving the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,



Ben Clayton
Chief Executive Officer