

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
May 23, 2011

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## **MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE EVENT SCHEDULED**

**Who:** Spokane International Airport (GEG)  
**What:** Open House for the Airport Master Plan  
**When:** Tuesday, May 24  
**Where:** Double Tree Hotel, Spokane City Center, Spokane  
**Time:** 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
**Parking:** Spokane Convention Center Garage. Parking validation provided.

(Spokane, Washington) -- On Tuesday, May 24, Spokane International Airport (GEG) will host the first of two Open House events associated with the Airport Master Plan. The event will take place from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Double Tree Hotel, Spokane City Center, Spokane. Parking will be available at the Spokane Convention Center Garage with parking validation provided at the event.

The Open House is a drop-in event. Visitors will find information tables and display boards on a variety of topics. Airport administrators and members of the consulting team will be available to answer questions. A comment area will be available for guests to offer opinions and ideas.

More project information is available at [www.spokaneairports.net](http://www.spokaneairports.net). A Facebook page has also been created for the project.

An Airport Master Plan study is a process to plan for the short-, mid-, and long-term development goals of the airport. This Plan will have a 30-year planning horizon. The

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**AIRPORT MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE**

May 23, 2011

Page 2

Plan will include a proposed schedule for development and funding. A Master Plan is also a tool to meet local, state and federal regulations, many of which are tied to funding eligibility and environmental compliance.

This planning activity is especially important because passenger activity at GEG is projected to grow steadily over the next twenty years. In 2010, GEG saw 3 million passengers. That number is expected to increase to 6 million passengers by 2030. That's an increase of 3 million passengers in the next 20 years which will have a significant impact on the airport. The Plan will be a guide for how GEG should grow.

In total, GEG property measures over 5,400 acres in size. It has two runways, a terminal building, airside and landside development areas, parking facilities and access points. Planning for GEG includes planning for all of these facilities.

At the Airport, there is a significant inventory of buildings and systems in place to support passenger and cargo service. In addition, the airport facilities support general aviation and military activity. The Airport also manages a business and industrial park to support compatible landside development opportunities and an expanding aerospace industry cluster. Less than four miles west is the Fairchild Air Force Base which is another important planning factor.

Some of the growth at GEG will be a result of changes that are happening across the aviation industry. Overall, the average size of commercial airplanes is getting larger. At the same time, the average "load factor" is getting higher. The "load factor" is a percentage measurement of how many seats on the plane are full. This means that over time, the same number of flights will carry more people. GEG will need to adjust and grow to support this change.

Another change in commercial air service is a shift to longer "haul routes" or trip distances. This may increase the number of flights to and from destinations like Chicago, Atlanta and Dallas.

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