

Long-Term Vision for Wings Field

March 5, 2007 Draft

From late-2006 through June 2007, state senators and representatives for the areas that include and surround Wings Field, a representative from the Governor's office, the deputy secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Whitpain Township supervisors, the Whitpain and Plymouth Township managers, representatives from the Whitpain planning, zoning enforcement, police and fire departments, representatives from a Whitpain citizens group, airport opponents, and the members of the board of directors of the partnership that owns Wings Field met for a series of meetings. Their aim was to collaborate on developing a long-term vision for Wings Field. Their work, while not completed, included 21 issues of common principles and areas of agreement. The table below includes, in column one, the 21 items that were developed at these "Vision" meetings and, in column two, what Wings Field has done to accomplish these objectives.

Continuation of Current Operations

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| 1. Wings Field will serve as a general aviation airport focused on recreational and corporate use. Wings Field will also provide support for emergency services such as medical helicopters. | Done. See Wings Field's Long-Term Plan. |
| 2. Wings Field will provide safe facilities for pilots and small aircraft, with the safety of the community also paramount. | Done. See Wings Field's Long-Term Plan. |
| 3. The same functions currently performed at Wings Field are expected to continue: flight school, maintenance shop, air charter and air taxi services, pilot shop, fuel and line service, airplane dealers, hangars, tie-down spots, Penn Star medical helicopter and Angel Flight, the Driscoll Terminal, and the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club. | Done. See Wings Field's Long-Term Plan. |
| 4. Wings Field will continue to focus on serving the needs of aircraft weighing 12,500 lbs or less. | Done. See Wings Field's Long-Term Plan. |

Limitations on Operations and Development

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| 5. Wings Field will not become a scheduled commercial service airport. | Done. See Wings Field's Long-Term Plan. |
| 6. Wings Field will not seek to expand its present land boundaries. | Not mentioned specifically in Wings Field's Long-Term Plan, but Wings does not envision increasing its present land boundaries. |
| 7. Wings Field will not seek to lengthen its 3700 ft. long runway, which will and currently does limit the type of aircraft that can use the airport. | Done. See Wings Field's Long-Term Plan. |
| 8. Wings Field will discourage frequent use of Wings Field by transient aircraft in excess of 12,500 lbs by publishing in the applicable aviation facilities directory "Prior permission required for operations of aircraft weighing in excess of 12,500 pounds". | Done. See Wings Field's Long-Term Plan. |

Wings Field will focus on serving the needs of aircraft weighing 12,500 lbs. or less.

- a. Operations by aircraft in excess of 12,500 lbs: To discourage frequent use of Wings Field by transient aircraft in excess of 12,500 lbs, Wings shall:
 - i. Have its FBO institute a higher landing fee for such transient aircraft; and
 - ii. Publish in the applicable aviation facilities directory “Prior permission required for operations of aircraft weighing in excess of 12,500 pounds”.
- b. Aircraft based at Wings weighing in excess of 12,500 lbs: Wings’ hangars in the terminal area can accommodate up to 4 aircraft weighing in excess of 12,500 lbs. Wings envisions that, even with the new hangars proposed for the terminal area, no more than 4 aircraft weighing in excess of 12,500 lbs would be based there.

9. [??] Subject to the limitations imposed by federal law, Wings Field will work to prevent or, to the extent possible, limit, any increase in aircraft operations that will subject the community to greater exposure to aircraft noise. Wing Fields’ efforts will include daily monitoring of aircraft operations by type of aircraft, as well as investigation of all noise complaints by community residents.

10. Any future development of Wings Field will be consistent with its focus on recreational and corporate aviation.

Quality of Life Concerns

11. Wings Field will be a good neighbor and work to protect the quality of life of the community. Wings Field officials will meet with representatives of the local community and take into account the airport’s immediate proximity to residential areas as well as residents’ concerns about quality of life, noise and environmental issues in its daily operations and all future development plans.

12. On an annual basis, Wings Field will publish its long-term forecast and business plan identifying the type, number, and noise characteristics of aircraft that it expects to accommo-

Done. See Wings Field’s Long-Term Plan.

Done.

Done. See Wings Field’s Long-Term Plan.

Violates federal discrimination laws and grant assurances with the FAA.

Wings envisions building a limited number – up to 10 or 11 – of “large” hangars that can store up to four single-engine airplanes or three twins or one turboprop or one business jet or other combinations.

Capacity and operational limitations violate federal laws and grant assurances with the FAA.

Because Wings, like most general aviation airports, does not have a control tower, daily monitoring of aircraft operations is beyond the financial and technological capabilities of Wings Field.

Wings already aggressively investigates and follows up on all noise complaints.

Done. See Wings Field’s Long-Term Plan.

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Further discussion needed.

date over the next XX years. Wings Field will also describe how it plans to mitigate any projected adverse noise or quality of life impact on the community over the time period projected.

13. Wings Field envisions preserving the land that surrounds the airport in its natural state and continuing to provide a habitat for wildlife and natural and indigenous vegetation consistent with airport operations.
14. Wings Field will work with Whitpain Township and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to screen the airport with trees and other plantings to the maximum extent consistent with airport operations.

Done. See Wings Field's Long-Term Plan.

Further discussion needed.

Resolution of Community-Airport Issues

15. The Commonwealth will explore options to provide a forum that would be available to airports and communities in Pennsylvania to address airport/community disputes.
16. Wings Field and Whitpain Township officials will meet to assure that there is effective coordination of police, fire, and emergency services provided for the airport.
17. The Commonwealth will assist Wings Field and Whitpain Township officials in efforts to ensure that state and federal agencies conduct periodic monitoring of air and water quality, noise and other environmental issues at Wings Field. Wings Field agrees to make the results of such monitoring available to the public.

Further discussion needed and action required from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Further discussion needed. Wings has always had an effective working relationship with the Whitpain Township police, fire, and emergency services departments.

Further discussion needed and action required from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Airport Development Plans

18. Wings Field does not envision conducting any development that significantly increases the capacity of the airport to accommodate based or transient aircraft – although Wings Field envisions undertaking projects to better protect aircraft or improve the quality of life for nearby residents.
19. Consistent with the above principles, Wings Field envisions building a transient aircraft parking apron to reduce the impact of noise and fumes on nearby neighbors.

Capacity and operational limitations violate federal laws and grant assurances with the FAA.

However, Wings does not envision any significant change in the overall capacity of the airport beyond the 162 noted by a Commonwealth Court judge in a 1988 decision approving Wings' development plan.

See Wings Field's Long-Term Plan. Lawsuits by a small group of neighbors, recently dismissed by Commonwealth Court, have

20. Consistent with the above principles, Wings Field envisions erecting hangars that will also serve as visual and noise barriers and enhance security.

21. Wings Field envisions opening an aviation museum to house historic aircraft and serve educational and other community purposes.

delayed construction of the transient parking apron for five years.

See Wings Field's Long-Term Whitpain Township's Zoning Hearing Board's review of Wings Field's plan to replace two of its hangars found that it met all township zoning requirements. However, a small group of neighbors has appealed that decision to the Common Pleas Court.

See Wings Field's Long-Term Plan.