

Aviation



Description of Services

Bellingham International Airport (BLI) is a Federal Aviation (FAA) Regulation Part 139 primary non-hub commercial air service airport with daily originating direct and connecting flights to destinations throughout the United States and abroad. BLI is located approximately 100 miles north of Seattle and 40 miles south of Vancouver, Canada. Service at BLI has historically been provided by Low-Cost Carriers (LCC) to leisure destinations and regional/commuter carriers. Allegiant Travel Company, Southwest Airlines, and Alaska Air Group with commuter service by Horizon Airlines to SEA provided a majority of scheduled service in 2022. Southwest Airlines a low-cost legacy carrier operated three daily flights with two to Oakland and one to Las Vegas. A small portion of enplanements is also served by San Juan Air, an air-taxi operator and charter carrier.

BLI is located on a site of approximately 1,018 acres, four miles north of downtown Bellingham and has facilities for commercial airlines, air cargo, general aviation, and maintenance. The airfield consists of a single all-weather precision Instrument Landing System (ILS) Runway 16-34 controlled by an FAA contracted Air Traffic Control Tower, with a full-length parallel taxiway and connectors. BLI provides a 16.5-hour air traffic control tower and weather service, storage hangars, domestic and international terminal for air carrier use, and serves as an International Port of Entry with U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility for non-scheduled corporate and general aviation aircraft.

The scheduled air service business component consists of a 105,000 sq. ft. commercial air passenger and cargo terminal with related support facilities, including an eight aircraft parking apron, six boarding gates, revenue parking lots, airport safety and security facilities, and food, beverage, and retail concessions. Ground transportation services are also provided at the

terminal including rental cars, inter-city, and local bus and shuttle transportation services as well as on-demand taxi and transportation network operators to meet the travel needs of the region. Currently, there are year-round non-stop commercial air flights between Bellingham and: Seattle, Las Vegas, Oakland, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, Phoenix, San Diego, and the San Juan Islands.

Additionally, there is a seasonal charter service operated by several charter carriers including Sun Country, Elite, and a couple of regional carriers. The Port's Air Service and Cargo program provide dedicated land and facilities for the development and expansion of existing and new passenger and cargo airlines.

The general aviation center and fixed-base operation facilities are available for a variety of corporate and general aviation users. The general aviation terminal is owned by the Port and leased to the fixed base operator ("FBO") and is equipped with a corporate meeting room and pilot lounge with a flight planning facility. General aviation facilities include one FBO, one aircraft maintenance facility, three flight schools, an avionics repair facility, 23 corporate hangars, and seven T-hangar units (124 total hangars), as well as 69 aircraft tie-down spaces. A private company provides FBO services including fueling. Aviation 100LL gasoline and Jet-A fuel are both available at the Airport. The existing fuel farm and self-serve tanks, owned by the Port and operated by the FBO, have a storage capacity of 124,000 gallons. General aviation and corporate business aviation activities enhance tourism, business, and transportation to Whatcom County and the region.

Physical Assets

BLI is an FAA Class 1, Part 139 airport, located on 1,018 acres just north and west of the City of Bellingham. It's equipped with a 6,701 x 150-foot all-weather precision Instrument Landing System (ILS) Runway 16-34 controlled by an FAA contract Air Traffic Control Tower. There are visual approach landing aids to both the 16 and 34 runway approaches.

BLI has dedicated terminals serving Commercial and General Aviation and is a designated International Port of Entry with Customs and Immigration inspection services.

2023 Objectives

1. Continue efficiencies implemented to manage costs through the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Restore, retain, and increase airline service with target markets in Denver, Chicago, Dallas, Albuquerque, Reno, and leisure markets in Mexico and Hawaii.
3. Complete the construction of capital projects funded with FAA and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill to fully fund the projects.
4. Identify new aeronautical and non-aeronautical revenue sources.
5. Manage the operating budget without increasing rates and charges to maintain the Airline Cost Per Enplanement to < \$4.00.

The Operating Budget

Funding sources include operating aeronautical and non-aeronautical revenues, user fees (Passenger Facility Charges and Customer Facility Charges), and federal grants.

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Budget	FY 2023 Budget
Operating Revenues	\$4,256,171	\$4,132,777	\$5,782,382
Operating Expenses	\$4,929,356	\$6,048,071	\$6,705,731
Net	(\$673,185)	(\$1,915,294)	(\$923,349)

2023 New Major Capital Items



De-Icer Truck and ARFF Gear

- Purchase \$500,000
- Funded with 90% Federal Aviation Administration Grant (\$450,000)

Staffing

In 2022, the airport employed 11 full-time Airport Firefighters who staff the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) station, performing safety and security duties, and maintain runways, taxiways, and terminals in compliance with the FAA and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) standards. The ARFF Index is expected to change from a B to a C, therefore the planned number of Airport Firefighters in 2023 is 14.

