



An Oregon Solution: North Bend Airport

Co-conveners: Coos County Commissioner Nikki Whitty and Sue Richardson, Coos County Airport District Vice-Chair

The North Bend Airport was built in 1960 and is the only commercial airport on Oregon's coast. The airport was in need of significant rehabilitation. Commercial, general aviation, and cargo/mail operation are projected to double by 2020.

Governor Kulongoski designated the expansion of the airport as an Oregon Solutions project and asked that the public, private and civic partners come together to construct a new terminal facility. The Oregon Solutions team of 16 organizations signed a Declaration of Cooperation in 2004. Team members included: the Coos County Airport District, the south coast state legislative delegation, cities of Coos Bay and North Bend, Coquille Tribe Economic Development Corporation, South Coast Development Commission, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Bandon Dunes Golf Resort, and four state agencies.

On August 18, 2005 Governor Kulongoski signed SB 152 at the North Bend Airport. Through the sale of lottery bonds, the bill provided \$10 million to the Airport District for a new terminal. The airport is now called the Southwest Oregon Regional Airport. The new 37,000-square-foot terminal is scheduled to be opened on July 3, 2008. Horizon and SkyWest's first flights will be July 7th. This infrastructure improvement boosts transportation linkages for the whole Coos Bay-South Coast region.

Following the Oregon Solutions Declaration of Cooperation, Commissioner Nikki Whitty said, "Collaboration among public, private, non-profit agencies and citizens is required to solve local challenges and capitalize opportunities for growth in a timely manner. A new airport terminal facility will greatly affect the transportation, tourism, and business infrastructure on the entire southern Oregon coast and signifies a long-term economic benefit to the region."

