

Approval could bring 100 jobs to Aurora airport



The former church camp bordering the Aurora State Airport has been abandoned for decades. BILL POEHLER | STATESMAN JOURNAL

Bill Poehler
Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

A step in the redevelopment that could keep one of the largest employers at Aurora State Airport was approved Wednesday.

The Marion County commissioners voted to rezone the former church camp property to commercial from exclusive farm use over the objections of neighboring cities and paved the way for the long vacant parcel to be redeveloped into buildings for airport-related businesses projected to bring 100 new jobs and \$15 million a year.

Life Flight Network had threatened to relocate to Redmond or Boise if the application wasn't approved as the company currently splits its offices between the airport and Wilsonville and wants to consolidate operations at the airport.

"Our airport is home to dozens of local businesses conducting missions critical to the safety and well-being of our communities every day," Friends of Aurora Airport spokesman Dylan Frederick said.

"This decision is a win for all of the families and communities that are served by the important work done by airport businesses every day."

The 16-acre parcel is bordered on three sides by airport-related businesses. A former Methodist Church Camp with over a dozen small buildings, it has been vacant for years, but has remained zoned for exclusive farm use.

The land was purchased by TLM Holdings, a company owned by Ted Millar which owns a number of parcels around the airport, for \$2.1 million in 2015, according to Marion County Tax Assessor records.

It has long been eyed for airport-related development due to its proximity and ability for the businesses to have accessibility to the runway.

And it is the last parcel of undevel-

oped land suitable for development of the state-owned airport.

"It's hard for me to see any other use or any other piece of property that could be justified for this type of use," Marion County Commissioner Colm Willis said.

Marion County hearing's officer Anna Gasser in November 2019 decided TLM Holdings should pay \$475,409 for its proportionate share of traffic mitigation, which was approved Wednesday.

"Our position was this was entirely expected because in 2009 this same body approved a separate 27-acre application that became Helicopter Transport Services," said Ben Williams of Friends of French Prairie, a land conservation group.

Aurora planning commission chair Joseph Schaefer raised issues including sewer and water system for new development at the airport during a public hearing.

Wilsonville raised objections to the rezoning, including potential impacts it could have on traffic at intersections around the airport and on Interstate 5 at the Boone Bridge south of Wilsonville.

"Just for the counties' sake, every time Wilsonville wants to develop something, I insist that we ask them to justify their impacts to the Boone Bridge," Marion County Commissioner Sam Brentano said.

"They only see it one way, anything that interferes with their development is bad and we overlook theirs."

Separately, an appeal about the expansion of the airport's runway that involves Aurora, Wilsonville, the state, Marion and Clackamas counties is being considered by the state's land use board of appeals.

Bill Poehler covers Marion County for the Statesman Journal. Contact him at bpoehler@statesmanjournal.com or Twitter.com/bpoehler

Support local journalism by subscribing to the Statesman Journal.



The Aurora State Airport in Aurora on Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018. There is a \$37 million dollar proposal to expand the airport. ANNA REED / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Hot Summer Savings



L3301DT with LA525 Loader

- 33 Gross HP, 3-Cylinder Kubota Diesel Engine
- 4WD • Larger Operator's Platform with Semi-Flat Deck
- Performance-Matched Implements Available



BX2380 with LA344 Loader

- 21.6 Gross HP, 3-Cylinder Kubota Diesel Engine
- 4WD • Category I, 3-Point Hitch
- Performance-Matched Implements Available



U35-4R1A

- 24.8 Gross HP, Kubota Diesel Engine
- Deluxe Interior • Wider Entrance
- Tight Tail Swing • Deluxe Suspension Seat



LOCAL ADVISORS

Salem Area

<p>Michael Wooters FINANCIAL ADVISOR South 503-362-5439</p> <p>Caitlin Davis CFP® FINANCIAL ADVISOR West 503-585-1464</p> <p>Jeff Davis FINANCIAL ADVISOR Mission 503-363-0445</p>	<p>Garry Falor CFP® FINANCIAL ADVISOR West 503-588-5426</p> <p>Chip Hutchings FINANCIAL ADVISOR Lancaster 503-585-4689</p> <p>Tim Sparks FINANCIAL ADVISOR Commercial 503-370-6159</p>
---	---

Tyson Wooters
FINANCIAL ADVISOR
South | 503-362-5439

Keizer Area

Mario Montiel
FINANCIAL ADVISOR
Keizer | 503-393-8166

Surrounding Area

<p>Bridgette Justis FINANCIAL ADVISOR Sublimity 503-769-3180</p> <p>Tim Yount FINANCIAL ADVISOR Silverton 503-873-2454</p>	<p>Kelly Denney FINANCIAL ADVISOR Dallas 503-623-2146</p> <p>David Eder FINANCIAL ADVISOR Stayton 503-769-4902</p>
--	--

www.edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Financial solutions are around the corner.



OVS MCMINNVILLE
2700 ST. JOSEPH RD.
MCMINNVILLE, OR
(503) 435-2700

OVS AURORA
19658 HWY. 99 E.
HUBBARD, OR
(971) 216-0111

www.ovs.com • 800-653-2216

STORE HOURS: Mon-Fri: 8-5 • Sat: 8-Noon

FULL SERVICE SHOPS AT BOTH LOCATIONS!

\$0 DOWN, 0% A.P.R.
FINANCING FOR UP TO

84 MONTHS*

ON SELECT NEW KUBOTAS

NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS

We're working to keep you working. Offer good until 10/31/20*

*0% Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 84 months on purchases of select new Kubota L3301 equipment from participating dealers' in stock inventory is available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Example: 84 monthly payments of \$11.90 per \$1,000 financed. Contract term begins from the date of first payment which is due 90 days from the contract date. Example: Purchase made on 9/1/20, first monthly payment is due 12/1/20. Some exceptions apply. Terms subject to change. Offers expire 10/31/20. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For more information, see Dealer or go to KubotaUSA.com. †For complete warranty, safety and product information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the product operator's manual. Power (HP/KW) and other specifications are based on various standards or recommended practices. K1095-04-144497-13