

Continuous Airport System Planning Program (CASP) Discussion

Regional Air System Plan (RASP) - Regional Aviation Baseline Study (RABS)

Olga Perez
Planning Program Specialist

Aviation Technical Subcommittee
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COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL AIR SYSTEM PLAN

A Report for Phases 1-3

November 2020



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board



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Puget Sound Regional Council

Regional Aviation Baseline Study

Final Report May 2021



RASP and RABS address different planning questions

Both examine future aviation needs, but at different scales and with different intended outputs.

	Regional Air System Plan (RASP)	Regional Aviation Baseline Study (RABS)
Primary question	How should ground access, terminal-area mobility, and supporting facilities accommodate projected demand?	Where will long-term runway, airspace, and system capacity fall short - and what options could close the gap?
Analytical focus	Tactical and operational: ground access, modal shares, curb and parking capacity, cargo facilities, and implementable projects.	Strategic and regional: capacity scenarios, candidate airports, economic impacts, environmental effects, and aviation-system tradeoffs.
Typical output	Needs assessment and project-oriented findings that can inform regional transportation plans.	Scenario findings and broader policy considerations; not a funded surface-project program.
Engagement	Airport agencies, FAA, state and local transportation partners, and the Aviation Technical Subcommittee.	Broader industry and public participation, including airlines, major employers, freight interests, and household outreach.

Puget Sound shows how a future RASP could broaden

Potential additions could be considered selectively - without changing the RASP's core regional planning role.

01	Capacity scenarios	Test demand against hard runway, airspace, physical, and regulatory constraints.
02	Economic implications	Estimate the regional benefits of meeting demand and the costs of constrained capacity.
03	Environmental tradeoffs	Consider noise, emissions, ultrafine particles, and sustainable aviation fuel logistics.
04	Cargo and emerging issues	Explore advanced cargo systems, airport workforce needs, advanced air mobility, and autonomous vehicles.
05	Broader engagement	Add structured input from airlines, employers, freight stakeholders, and the public where useful.

What should the next RASP update help the region understand?

Initial discussion

Should the next update retain its traditional focus, or incorporate selected elements of the broader RABS approach?

Potential next step

Use today's input to shape a more detailed scope discussion with the Aviation Technical Subcommittee.

Questions for the airport partners

- 1 Which broader topics would be most useful?
- 2 Are there specific analyses or decisions the update should support?
- 3 Who else should be involved as the scope is developed?

Olga Perez

Planning Program Specialist

Department of Transportation Planning

(202) 962-3265

opelaez@mwkog.org

mwkog.org/tpb

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300

Washington, DC 20002



National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board