



March 28, 2024

Janea Stark
Community Economic Revitalization Board, Executive Director & Tribal Liaison
Washington State Department of Commerce
PO Box 42525
Olympia, WA 98504-2525

RE: Support for City of Yakima Airport Passenger Terminal Modernization CERB Planning Application

Ms. Janea Stark,

As the Executive Director of the Associate Development Organization for Yakima County, I am writing to express Yakima County Development Association's (YCDA) support of the City of Yakima's Airport Passenger Terminal Modernization CERB Planning application. This project will modernize the passenger terminal to meet increasing traveler demand and significantly enhance YCDA's initiatives to grow our regional economy.

The original terminal was constructed in the 1950s and was last remodeled in the late 1990s. It has truly outlived its useful life and is in dire need of improvements. Various building systems of the existing terminal building and floor layout have created challenges. Terminal entry areas, ticketing counters, and TSA screening have all been identified as areas of operational inefficiencies. Federal requirements mandating additional passenger screening areas have also removed the limited space available to passengers. The inadequate size of the terminal was particularly apparent during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, as social distancing was impossible.

The 2015 Airport Master Plan Update and 2020 Airport Layout Plan Update identified a new or modernized terminal building as a top priority. The modernization of the terminal building will include updated screening areas, larger capacity passengers in secure and non-secured areas, updated passenger ticket stands, rental car stands, and associated facilities.

YCDA is proud to support the City of Yakima's CERB Planning application to modernize the air travel terminal building. This financial investment will drive competition for air carriers seeking to use the Yakima Air Terminal-McAllister Field, increase our regional economic competitiveness, and create living wage jobs in our community.

Thank you for giving the City of Yakima's funding request your full and fair consideration. Don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Smith, Executive Director