

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR AIRPORT COMMUNITIES: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING IN A POST-JET AGE

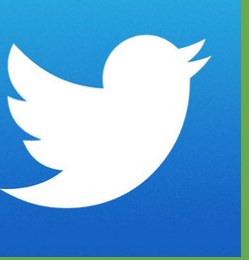
PROGRAM ON THE
ENVIRONMENT



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BACKGROUND

- Passenger and cargo aviation are projected to grow globally, increasing demand for support facilities
- Minority and low-income populations are disproportionately affected by air pollution produced by airports and cargo facilities
- Research shows trees can help mitigate the negative health effects of these facilities



Figure 1: Proposed development sites around SeaTac Airport, Port of Seattle Real Estate Strategic Plan (2020)

- Published documents indicate over 100 acres of forested land around SeaTac Airport for potential development (Fig 1)
- The objective of this study is to determine how land around SeaTac Airport can be permanently protected from development

GUIDING QUESTION

What big-picture planning approaches could ameliorate the environmental injustices experienced by airport communities?



Got 1 minute?

Scan the QR code and sign the Defenders of North SeaTac Parks' community forest consensus!

INTERNSHIPS & METHODS



Interned with SSCAN through the community advocacy group Defenders of North SeaTac Park (Fig 2 & 3)



Analyzed land use around SeaTac Airport through GIS mapping



Conducted interviews with elected officials and regional planners



Administered a literature review on current airport-community conflicts



Figures 2 & 3: Forest restoration work party at North SeaTac Park

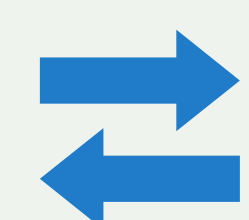
RESULTS

4 key planning approaches identified:



Urban Infill

The process of developing vacant or under-utilized parcels within existing developed areas



Land Swaps

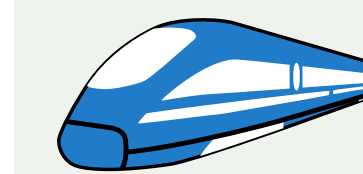
The exchange of land between two parties, typically between private and public entities

RESULTS CONTINUED



Rezoning

The process of reassigning land to a different category of use and development restrictions



Transportation alternatives

Investments in sustainable transportation alternatives such as high speed rail (HSR)

IMPLICATIONS

- The path forward must involve collaboration between public and private entities to identify successful opportunities for these planning approaches
- Regional planning organizations like the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) can play a more active role in shaping our regional transportation systems through creating policy that supports HSR
- The environmental health impacts of aviation necessitate change within the field of transportation planning — elected officials and planners must advocate for policies that advance the wellbeing of airport communities

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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