

From: [Dan Porth](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Salem air service
Date: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 8:53:28 AM

Councilors,

I have been a resident of Salem for 36+ years. I have been a business and property owner in Salem for a similar amount of time. During my time here, I have seen several failed attempts at bringing (and keeping) passenger air service in Salem. My question for the Council is: Is this the best use of City resources? Frankly, I don't believe it is.

Why? Our proximity to Portland and Eugene undercuts the need for passenger air service in Salem. Especially in its extremely limited form of limited flights per week to destinations many travelers don't want/need to travel to. We can probably entice another budget airline to come to Salem, but history tells us it will be gone in a couple of years. And what are the real benefits of passenger air service? It isn't jobs. No airline employees will live in Salem. There will be a few jobs at the airport to provide services (fuel, etc.) but that's about it. Civic pride doesn't always pay the bills.

What could be done differently and better? Has any thought been given to pursuing air freight? We have land and other infrastructure for warehouse space. Freight services would provide local jobs. And the Salem Airport is arguably closer (measured by travel time) to most of Oregon than PDX. We're closer to central Oregon. Closer to anywhere in the valley. Closer to southern Oregon. Closer to the coast. And closer to much of the Portland metro area than PDX (again, measured by travel time).

I'm certainly no expert on airlines or airfreight. But common sense tells me than passenger air has failed multiple times so it will likely fail again. A hub for FedEx, DHL, UPS, and/or others could be a much better use of the Salem Airport and provide many multiples of jobs over passenger service. I do pay attention to these topics and haven't heard air freight being part of past discussions. Maybe it's time to bring it up.

Thank you for your service to our city,

Dan Porth

Resident of Ward 4
(503) 580-3423

If you call me, leave a message!