

Hobby Field Airport (77S)

CRESWELL, OREGON, USA



Operations Review

The City of Creswell retained Critical Path, Inc. (CPI) to complete a review of its operational and safety procedures related to the potential use of the Hobby Field Airport for skydiving, glider training, and banner towing activities. Potential operators seeking permission to conduct these commercial operations had approached the City and the City, as the airport operator, was concerned with the risks associated with these potential operations. CPI was tasked to review the contemplated operations and provide recommendations to the City on these activities.

The owner of a local skydiving company had filed an informal complaint under CFR Title 14, Part 13 with the FAA alleging that the City was in violation of its Grant Assurances by discriminating against his skydiving operation. The objective of CPI's work was to ascertain if a drop zone, capable of supporting skydiving operations for all classes of skydivers, was feasible and, if so, what operating practices should be adopted to foster a safe environment for jumpers and other operators.

The City of Creswell coordinated a series of meetings between interested parties and CPI so that CPI could gain insight into the activities at the airport.

As part of CPI's research related to the skydiving operation, CPI reviewed documents provided by the City as well as other documents found during research. After CPI completed an on-site visit of the airport and viewed the physical limitations of the airport property, a technical review of the site was conducted to see if space was available for a drop zone. This technical review included analysis of relevant FAA Advisory Circulars, review of the Skydiver's Information Manual prepared by the United States Parachute Association on drop zone requirements, and discussions with the FAA Northwest Mountain Region.

The study provided the City of Creswell with a report detailing CPI's technical review and findings.

The work was conducted between August 2009 and February 2010.

Project Contact:

Mr. Mark Shrives
City Administrator

City of Creswell
P.O. Box 276
Creswell, OR 97426

Phone: (541)895-2531
mshrives@creswell-or.us