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In Oregon Though neighborhoods surrounding*Oregonian, The (Portland, OR)**December 10, 2005**Author: Alex Pulaski; The Oregonian***Estimated printed pages: 1**

Though neighborhoods surrounding Portland International **Airport** have a long-running issue with **noise**, runway safety has not emerged as a significant issue.

The two runways at PDX have 1,000-foot buffer zones at each end. The south runway's east end, about 2,000 feet from Northeast 82nd Avenue, is the closest either runway comes to auto traffic, Port of Portland spokesman Steve Johnson said.

Both runways are considerably longer than the 6,500-foot runway at Chicago's Midway **Airport**.

PDX's south runway is 11,000 feet long and capable of handling fully loaded wide-body aircraft. The north runway is 8,000 feet long. The Port is considering lengthening it to 10,600 feet, perhaps as early as 2008.

In its annual tally of runway incursions --defined as incidents that pose collision hazards for commercial aircraft taking off or landing --published earlier this year, the Federal Aviation Administration said only one had occurred at PDX since 2001. That compared with nine incidents in Eugene, six in Redmond and two in Hillsboro for the same period. -- Alex Pulaski

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