Port of Portland

October 2026

Annual Update:

Unleaded Avgas Readiness and Transition Plan



Background

Used by many small aircraft at airports nationwide, leaded aviation fuel (avgas) raises serious health and environmental concerns for nearby communities. The Port of Portland is actively working to transition to unleaded avgas at Hillsboro Airport (HIO).

Transitioning to unleaded avgas is a complex national issue and requires coordination across the aviation industry including general aviation airports across Oregon. We recognize the importance of this transition and are taking one of the most proactive approaches in the state. As described in our Unleaded Avgas Readiness and Transition Plan released in October 2025, we are implementing several strategies to move the needle at HIO ahead of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)'s goal to eliminate the use of leaded avgas nationally by 2030.

Community input has been central to this effort. Extensive engagement with airport neighbors, pilots, businesses, community organizations, elected officials, and other jurisdictions helped shape our plan and continues to inform its implementation.

This first annual update highlights our progress, challenges, and next steps as we continue this important work and keep our community informed.





Summary of Key Port Activities (October 2025 – September 2026)

Applicable Legal Framework	
Plan Context	The Port's 2025 Unleaded Avgas Readiness and Transition Plan outlines the federal regulations that limit the Port's ability to restrict leaded avgas and identifies the required steps to support a transition to unleaded alternatives.
Challenges & Dependencies	The FAA is responsible for authorizing replacement fuels that meet applicable federal standards and are compatible with nearly all piston-engine aircraft. The FAA has not yet established the specific requirements governing how and when leaded avgas sales may be phased out, including whether leaded avgas must remain available alongside unleaded alternatives during the transition.
Progress	**National Transition Plan for Eliminating Leaded Avgas:** In January 2026, the FAA released its *Draft Transition Plan for Unleaded Aviation Gasoline* for public comment. The Port reviewed the draft, submitted comments affirming its alignment with the Port's own *2025 Unleaded Avgas Readiness and Transition Plan,* and shared the draft publicly to encourage public awareness and participation during the comment period. In July 2026, the FAA released its completed Transition Plan to Unleaded Aviation Gasoline, outlining a phased approach to transitioning general aviation aircraft to unleaded avgas by 2030. **Progress Toward Unleaded Avgas Approval:** Several unleaded aviation gasoline products have received FAA approval for use in specified aircraft through the supplemental type certificate (STC) process. However, no unleaded fuel has received FAA fleet-wide authorization as a universal replacement for 100LL. The FAA continues to evaluate fuel performance, aircraft compatibility, and other requirements for a safe nationwide transition.
Next Milestone	The FAA will provide progress updates on items to be completed in Phase 1 of the FAA Transition Plan and will develop and release an updated FAA Transition Plan for Unleaded Aviation Gasoline 2.0.

Public Health and Environmental Considerations

Plan Strategy	**1.** The Port will monitor public health agency websites (i.e., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Health Authority, and county health departments) for any communications regarding public health impacts from leaded avgas and post any available information on the Port's dedicated webpage Bringing Lead-Free Fuel to Hillsboro Airport.	Ongoing
Challenges & Dependencies	The Port relies on public health agencies to assess potential health risks, conduct research, and provide guidance on lead exposure. The availability of new information depends on research and assessments conducted by these agencies and other qualified organizations.	
Progress	**Coordination with Public Health Agencies:** The Port met individually with Oregon Health Authority, Washington County Public Health, and the Multnomah County Health Department to better understand their respective roles and where to direct community members seeking additional information. **New Public Health Information:** Oregon Health Authority created a new webpage, Lead in Aviation Fuel, which has been added to the Port's own dedicated webpage.	
Next Milestone	Continue monitoring public health agency communications and sharing updates with the public via our website and other community engagement opportunities.	

Fuel Availability Landscape

Plan Strategy	**2.** Maintain engagement with the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV), the State Aviation Board and regional airports with the goal of advancing efforts to expedite the transition to unleaded avgas across Oregon.	Ongoing
Challenges & Dependencies	FAA-authorized unleaded avgas is not yet readily available in airports across Oregon. Advancing a statewide transition will require sufficient fuel production, reliable distribution networks, and infrastructure for unleaded avgas at airports throughout the state.	
Progress	**Unleaded Avgas Availability:** Unleaded avgas continues to enter the market, although production, distribution, and cost remain barriers to widespread adoption. In July 2026, the FAA released its *Transition Plan to Unleaded Aviation Gasoline,* outlining steps to support fuel approval, production, distribution, and adoption. **Regional Coordination:** The Port continues to work with state partners and regional airports to support a coordinated transition to unleaded avgas across Oregon, including advocating for alignment with federal and state policies. These efforts recognize the importance of fuel availability throughout the region, particularly at airports frequently used by aircraft operating out of HIO.	
Next Milestone	Identify opportunities with regional airports and state partners to address distribution barriers and expand access to unleaded avgas across Oregon.	

Avgas at Port Facilities

Plan Strategies	**3. FBO Engagement:** Meet with all FBOs at HIO by the end of calendar year 2025 to discuss their interest in selling unleaded avgas.	Complete
	4. Flight School Engagement: Meet with flight school(s) at HIO to determine their interest in self-fueling unleaded avgas for their training aircraft by calendar year 2025.	In Progress
	5. Fuel Storage Infrastructure: Ensure infrastructure at HIO can accommodate unleaded avgas by the end of calendar year 2026.	In Progress
	6. Early Adopter Incentives: Provide incentives (e.g., continuing education, marketing and business development support, etc.) to early adopters.	In Progress
Challenges & Dependencies	**Fuel Storage Infrastructure:** Because unleaded and leaded avgas cannot be mixed in storage, dedicated storage capacity is necessary to maintain a reliable supply of unleaded fuel in sustainable quantities. The Port has evaluated existing fuel storage infrastructure that has the potential to be used for unleaded avgas. This includes recommissioning an underground storage tank, which requires new system components, including environmental monitoring equipment and compliance activities overseen by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Required regulatory environmental testing and notification must be complete prior to the tank being placed into service. **FBO Engagement:** The Port must partner with airport businesses and FBOs to make unleaded avgas available at HIO. Securing these agreements is a critical step toward bringing unleaded avgas to the airport and will influence when it becomes available.	
Progress	**FBO Engagement:** The Port remains committed to working with airport businesses and FBOs to establish the partnerships needed to make unleaded avgas available at HIO. We have initiated negotiations to establish the infrastructure and operating arrangements necessary to support the availability of unleaded avgas. **Flight School Engagement:** The Port met with a flight school at HIO in 2025. These conversations are helping inform the Port's understanding of potential adoption barriers and infrastructure needs. **Fuel Storage Infrastructure:** The Port conducted testing in May 2026 to confirm the tank's readiness for use and has engaged contractors to purchase and install the necessary equipment to return the tank to service, which is expected to be completed by the end of calendar year 2026. **Early Adopter Incentives:** The Port remains committed to exploring potential incentives to support implementation by early adopters.	
Next Milestones	• Complete the remaining recommissioning work to advance the fuel tank toward operational readiness. • Advance negotiations with airport businesses and FBOs toward agreements that support the sale of unleaded avgas at HIO.	

Stakeholder Engagement and Lessons Learned

Plan Strategies	**7. Pilot Education:** Identify industry groups offering educational events to help pilots understand the requirements for transitioning to unleaded avgas. Where possible, support pilots' participation and assist with outreach efforts to promote broad access and reduce barriers to participating in these events. If no industry group-sponsored events can be found, convene a panel for a webinar by the end of calendar year 2026.	In Progress
	8. Progress Reports: Provide progress reports at least annually through the Port's dedicated webpage and other established public engagement opportunities, as appropriate.	Ongoing
	9. Additional Strategies: Use annual progress and lessons learned to identify additional strategies that could support the transition.	Ongoing
Challenges & Dependencies	**Pilot Education:** No industry-led educational events were identified locally or nationally, limiting opportunities to connect HIO pilots with existing resources. Developing Port-led educational opportunities will require additional planning and coordination with aviation experts and industry partners. **Additional Strategies:** Different groups have different questions and information needs. Pilots want to understand fuel safety and aircraft compatibility, neighbors are concerned about health and environmental impacts, and jurisdictional partners need reliable information and regular updates from Port staff. The Port is working to improve how it communicates with each group and create more opportunities for meaningful dialogue and shared learning.	
Progress	**Pilot Education:** The Port explored opportunities to connect local pilots with industry-led educational events but did not identify any available offerings locally or nationally. To help address this gap, the Port will take a more active role in organizing and convening opportunities for pilot education, information-sharing, and dialogue as the transition progresses. **Progress Reports:** The Port prepared its first annual update to the Unleaded Avgas Readiness and Transition Plan, documenting progress, challenges, and next steps since the plan's release in October 2025. The update will be made publicly available on the Port's website. **Additional Strategies:** Following the release of the Port's 2025 Unleaded Avgas Readiness and Transition Plan, the Port established twice-yearly community forums in Hillsboro, in part to provide updates and opportunities for discussion and questions about avgas. Subject matter experts regularly participate to share information and respond to questions regarding the transition and industry updates.	
Next Milestones	• Develop communication and engagement opportunities tailored to the needs of different groups. • Explore additional educational activities, including a potential fly-in event to connect airport users and surrounding communities.	



Industry Activities / Updates	
FAA releases updated national transition plan.	In July 2026, the FAA released its Transition Plan to Unleaded Aviation Gasoline, outlining a phased approach to safely transition piston-engine aircraft away from leaded avgas. The plan addresses fuel testing and approval, production and distribution, and airport readiness. The FAA anticipates releasing an updated plan in late 2027.
Progress toward unleaded avgas.	Multiple 100-octane unleaded aviation fuels are advancing through testing, approval, and industry-standard processes. UL100E, developed by LyondellBasell and VP Racing, received an international fuel standard in November 2025 and continues undergoing FAA evaluation. GAMI's G100UL has received broad FAA approval in September 2022 through the Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) process and is pursuing an industry standard to support wider distribution. Swift Fuels' 100R is also advancing through FAA evaluation. As unleaded fuels become more widely available, individual airport fuel providers (FBOs) will determine which products to carry based on availability, cost, and customer demand.
The national transition remains complex and will take time.	While the aviation industry continues working toward eliminating leaded aviation avgas by the end of 2030, FAA officials have acknowledged that meeting this goal may be difficult. Challenges include completing fuel approvals, expanding production and distribution, and ensuring airports and aircraft are ready to use unleaded alternatives. The industry must also maintain access to existing leaded avgas (100LL) for aircraft that still require it during the transition.

Looking Ahead

The transition to unleaded avgas is an important part of the Port's commitment to our community and supporting the long-term sustainability of our airports. While this transition involves technical, regulatory, and operational challenges, we recognize the importance of continued progress.

We remain committed to working with airport businesses, government agencies, other general aviation airports and community members to advance solutions, share information transparently, and identify opportunities to accelerate the transition.

We appreciate the community and our partners' continued engagement and look forward to reporting on our progress in future annual updates.







