



Proposed Vancouver Island Motorsport Park at the Campbell River Airport.

As a member of the Airport Authority and a motorsports enthusiast, I've been eying up land at the airport as a possible location for a motorsports facility for the past five years. I am in the process of creating a not-for-profit society, the Vancouver Island Motorsports Society, to pursue the development of such a facility on Vancouver Island. The society's purpose is to provide a safe facility for motorsport activities that is family oriented and an asset to the community. The following is a quick synopsis of the concept, with some suggestions for how we could make this happen in Campbell River:

Why a Motorsports Facility

- Vancouver Island lacks any permanent racing facility for drag racing, the world's most participated in form of racing (the average street car can compete).
- Port Alberni's Thunder in the Valley is in danger of losing its use of the Port Alberni airport. This annual event has brought millions of dollars to their economy.
- The Island has a large contingent of racers with only temporary facilities (Alberni & Port McNeill)
- Although the main use would be drag racing, this area would open for other needs (similar venues accommodate a wide variety of recreational and other activities, including: road racing, motocross, bicycle racing, police training, professional driving schools, and club events for car enthusiasts.

Economic Impact

- Although a specific study has not yet been completed, other similar facilities demonstrate a significant impact.
- More importantly from an economic perspective, a racing facility acts as a magnet that attracts users and visitors to Campbell River, whose spending represents a significant, ongoing economic stimulus to the local economy.
- Finally, as a local venue, it keeps spending by thousands of local motor sports enthusiasts, and others on the Island. Effectively, it is a mechanism allowing them to "buy local."

Land

- The land to the north of the last taxiway on the east side of the airport is unused, cleared and a good candidate for a facility.
- Approximate size of the land is 500' wide & 4000' long.
- Airport road would provide access.

Development & Operations

- Could be City owned and operated or privately operated.
- The not-for-profit society is gathering a group of investors to take on the project.
- The society would work with the City to have the property designated for recreational use.

Interesting Info from Portland International Raceway (PIR)

(Although PIR has a larger population to draw from, this information is relevant. To have the only facility of its kind on Vancouver Island would definitely create a significant economic impact to the community).

PIR is City owned and operated by their Parks & Recreation Department.

PIR held approximately 650 days of events in 2004. (Event days are greater than calendar days because the facility was double and triple booked on most days during peak season.) PIR estimates that track participants, spectators, and others made approximately 420,000 visits to the raceway in 2004.

Interesting Survey Result - approximately 87.4 percent of the person visits by non-residents would not have occurred if it were not for PIR. This result clearly indicates that PIR is the primary draw

Below is an example from an Economic Impact Study for Portland International Raceway (PIR). Although they may have a larger drawing area, we draw from the entire Island so it could be relevant.

- An increase of \$45.3 million in output (a measure of overall economic activity);
- An increase of 690 full- and part-time jobs;
- An increase of \$16.9 million in wages;
- An increase of \$2.7 million in income for small business owners;
- An increase of \$5.6 million in various other types of income such as rents, royalties, dividends and profits received by residents, local businesses, and others; and
- An increase of \$2.6 million in revenues for state and local tax jurisdictions that includes approximately \$1.2 million in additional property tax revenues for Multnomah County.

The primary revenue source for PIR is rent paid by users of the facility. PIR also earns revenues for the City of Portland through advertising and by renting parking spaces to the nearby Expo Center. As shown in Table 1, PIR earned \$1,587,859 in calendar year 2004. (See page 4)

For the full survey go to: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/184066>

Table 1: Rent and Other Revenues Earned by PIR in 2004

Event or Use	Revenue to PIR	Event or Use	Revenue to PIR
ABFM / SOVREN	\$19,098	OMRRA	\$45,566
Advertising Revenue	92,222	Pacific Super Sport Riders	14,700
Alfa Romeo Club	6,198	Photography	12,000
American Le Mans Race	67,667	PIR Drags	268,048
Audi Club	12,000	PIR Swap Meet	62,442
Autosports	5,700	Police Training	54,500
Bicycles / Roller Blades	8,400	Porsche Club	10,618
BMW Club	15,553	Portland Historic Races	35,519
Broadacre Parking Rental	36,566	Portland Karting Association	44,176
Cascade Sports Car Club	56,625	Pro Drive	81,845
Champ Car Race	97,096	Proformance School	1,900
Corvette Club	2,182	Reg Pridmore School	1,900
Cyclocross	5,851	Reimbursements	166,908
Driving Unlimited	1,900	Ride-n-Drives	12,000
Ducati Motorcycle Event	2,878	Rose Cup Races	20,387
Electrathon America	630	SCCA (Race & SOLO II)	65,452
JMA Racing - Motorcycle	11,400	Shelby Club	6,796
Lights Rental	3,400	Speed Secrets	13,300
Lotus Club	6,000	Team Continental	9,400
Mike Sullivan School	1,900	Testing	106,438
Motocross Races	49,274	Tri Club Day	3,224
Mudfest	1,900	Winter Wonderland	38,000
NE Sport Bike Association	8,300	Total	\$1,587,859

Source: Portland International Raceway.