



## **Airport Construction FAQ**

### **Why is the runway construction needed this year?**

Reconstruction of Runway 10/28 is primarily needed to meet FAA safety requirements. The harsh weather conditions over the past three years have caused accelerated deterioration of the runway pavement and, as a result, the FAA, the Wisconsin Board of Aeronautics and Waukesha County have agreed that full reconstruction is required. We are taking advantage of the opportunity to also provide a pavement section that meets current FAA standards for our fleet mix of aircraft, and we're also improving runway lighting.

### **What is happening with the terminal and tower in 2015?**

The Airport Terminal project will take place from May 1 – August 14 to coincide with the runway project, and will include remodeling the terminal to make it friendlier for corporate and recreational aviation customers as they are coming through the airport, as well as replacement of the HVAC system to save on energy costs.

The Air Traffic Control Tower project will take place from June 1-19, when airport activity is the most limited, and it will consist of modernizing the workstation to increase functionality.

### **What are the dates of the runway reconstruction project?**

Runway 10/28 will be closed for construction May 2 – August 15, 2015. This, of course, will be a burden for our pilots and tenants, our air traffic controllers, our airport businesses and for incoming aircraft from other airports, as we are reduced to one runway for 3 months.

There will be a larger disruption for 3 weeks from June 1-21, when our contractors are working on the section of concrete where the two runways intersect. During this time, Runway 18/36 will be reduced in length and will be available for daytime VFR flight only, which means that many of our aircraft will be unable to use the airport. This primarily impacts corporate aviation, but it also impacts two prime flying weekends for our recreational pilots. We evaluated multiple scenarios to determine the best possible approach to reduce the length of time for this portion of the project while maintaining as much runway length as we can. We apologize for this disruption and will do everything possible to maintain as much runway length as possible and minimize the negative impact on all of our customers and stakeholders.

### **What is driving the timing of this project?**

As with all outdoor construction projects in colder climates, we are limited in the months we can choose for the projects, based upon the weather and its potential impact on concrete and other construction materials. Unfortunately, that means the construction has to coincide with prime flying season. Runways, in particular, have very strict requirements for grading and placing concrete, for example. For proper grading and subgrade compaction, it will be necessary for the frost to be out of the ground. If the concrete is poured in extreme temperatures it will not cure

properly, resulting in a dramatic reduction of strength and durability. Obviously, we can't risk a poor quality outcome on something as important as a runway, so we have no choice but to build the runway in the spring/summer months.

### **What happens if the project falls behind schedule?**

We have incentivized the contractor to complete the project ahead of schedule, so you can expect to see them working multiple shifts and/or weekends in order to ensure the project is completed on time. Additionally, there are disincentives that will be assessed to the contractor in the unlikely event the project falls behind. The project has been separated into four phases with interim deadlines associated with each phase to help maintain the overall schedule. Liquidated damages of \$3,000/day will be assessed for each calendar day the project extends over each phase.

### **How can I keep flying while the runways are under construction?**

Runway 18/36 will be open with the exception of a few short-term closures June 1-21. There will also be some restrictions to the runway length during this time period. For recreational pilots, this means there are only two weekends during prime flying season when you may not be able to fly. We are presently working with the FAA to determine the exact length of runway available during this time, current estimates indicate approximately 1,700 ft. of runway will be available. We recognize that corporate aircraft and some recreational pilots will need to fly during this period and, therefore, they are working to rent hangar space at other airports for 3 weeks. We regret the inconvenience and are doing our best to minimize the impact on you. If you need assistance finding alternative hangar space in June, please contact airport management and we will work to help you find a solution.

### **Will I be able to taxi to other areas of the airport during construction? Will fuel trucks be able to access my hangar to refuel?**

Taxi and tug routes to airport businesses and hangar areas will remain open to ensure the flow of traffic to all areas of the airport. North side tenants and businesses will not be isolated during construction.

### **Is this project increasing the length of the runway?**

No. The focus of this project is to remove and replace existing runway pavement and lighting. We are not widening or lengthening the runway at this time.

### **When this project is complete, will the airport be able to accommodate larger aircraft?**

This project is not a capacity project. However, in an effort to expedite the construction, and to be in conformance with current FAA standards, a thicker section of concrete will be constructed (15" vs. the existing 8"). The resulting pavement strength will increase from 66,000 to 100,000 pounds for aircraft with dual-wheel landing gear configurations. This means that the current aircraft using the airport will be less weight-restricted and air traffic, particularly corporate aircraft, can continue to support economic development in our community and throughout Southeastern Wisconsin.

### **Will it be safe for students to continue their training during the construction period?**

Yes, both flight schools and the tower staff are well prepared to continue flight training operations during the construction period.

### **What is the total cost for this project? Who is paying for it?**

As a taxpayer, we understand your concern regarding funding, and responsible use of public resources. Each of these project elements have been carefully planned to ensure quality work at the best available price. Please note that the personal property taxes that you pay for your aircraft and hangar are paid to the City of Waukesha and are not a part of the federal or Waukesha County funding for these projects.

As a stipulation of the federal funding provided by the FAA for the runway reconstruction, the County must provide 5 percent of the total project cost, which comes to \$537,000. The County Board approved an ordinance to allocate the requisite funding last summer. \$610,000 in funding for the airport terminal and Air Traffic Control Tower remodeling projects was a planned expense that was also allocated by the County Board for this year as part of our long-term capital projects planning.

The Airport has secured \$10.5 million in federal funding from the FAA for the runway reconstruction.

### **Who are the contractors for this project? Why were they selected?**

Several companies meeting state pre-qualification requirements participated in a competitive bidding process that was administered by and through the Wisconsin DOT – Bureau of Aeronautics. Based on review of the bid results, Zignego Company, Inc., located in Waukesha, was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Zignego has been awarded all phases of the runway and terminal apron construction work, and will be the prime contractor for these projects. The sub-contractors that Zignego intends to use are still being determined.

According to the company's website, Zignego Company, Inc. has been successfully building urban highway and interstate construction projects throughout the State of Wisconsin since 1980.

### **Once the repairs are complete, how long are they expected to last?**

Due to the extensive measures we are taking with this project, we expect the reconstructed Runway 10/28 to last approximately 30 years.

### **Will construction be complete in time for Wings Over Waukesha 2015?**

The air show is not owned or managed by Waukesha County Airport, so we have no control over whether the air show will be held or not. We refer you to [airshow@wingsoverwaukesha.com](mailto:airshow@wingsoverwaukesha.com) for information about the air show. We continue to welcome the air show and remain very supportive of its continued operation at this airport.

### **Who should I talk to if I have questions regarding this project?**

We encourage you to direct any questions or concerns to either Kurt Stanich or Matt Grenoble in the Airport Administration Office by calling 262-521-5250 or via email – [kstanich@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:kstanich@waukeshacounty.gov) or [mgrenoble@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:mgrenoble@waukeshacounty.gov)

**How will you keep us updated regarding this project?**

We will keep you informed on the status of this project through construction bulletins, airport website, articles in the airport newsletter and more briefing sessions, as needed.