



AirWaves

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IPAA AirWaves

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AirWaves is published as an informational tool for all public airports in the state of Iowa.

It is directed to all airport decision makers including airport management, state/local government leaders and airport businesses.

We welcome your comments, thoughts and suggestions on how we may serve you better.

Greg Gobble, President (EOK)
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Dear Fellow IPAA Members,

By Greg Gobble
Keokuk Municipal Airport
Airport Manager
President of Iowa Public
Airports Association

As I write this article for the fall issue of Airwaves, we are on the verge of the mid-term elections. I had hoped that by the time I wrote my next article Congress would have passed a multi year FAA reauthorization bill. Unfortunately we are currently working on the 16th continuing resolution to fund the FAA since the last bill expired in 2007. While the continuing resolutions keep FAA in business, our projects become harder to bid and move forward, as construction seasons push later into the year. Weather becomes more of a factor, projects become more costly and planning more difficult. My point in all of this is to urge all of our members to stay involved in the process by contacting our legislators, urge them to support Iowa aviation and educate them. The education factor cannot be over emphasized as we could possibly have major changes in representation as a result of the elections.

Our goal as members of the Iowa Public Airports Association is to work as a team to promote our aviation system and to ensure we have a transportation system keeping Iowa connected to the rest of the world. We need to maintain vigilance making sure the legislators understand the important role our

airports play in Iowa's future, how state funding enhances and leverages federal dollars for projects within our state. That same level of state commitment is necessary to provide our system users with timely weather observations, safety programs, and land use programs to ensure that the investment in our airports is protected. Most importantly, we need to impart the message that our airports are economic engines bringing jobs as companies locate near to and utilize our airports to conduct business. To borrow a phrase, "Airports are the economic development front door to our communities and our state."

In the past decade I've seen vast improvements in our aviation system. The Office of Aviation has been pro-active in dealing with the challenges facing our airports in this past decade. We've developed a great working relationship with our system users, FAA, TSA, State and Federal legislators and staff. We need to continue to cultivate those relationships as we move forward. Stay active and involved, rest assured your association board is, but we need help. See you at the IPAA Day on the Hill, check out IPAA's website for new developments. I'd also like to thank the members who were able to attend the FAA conference in Kansas City. Thanks for the comments, updates and discussion.

Have a great fall everyone.
Think no-snow! ✈️

For more information, call 515-727-0667 or visit iowaairports.org

Changing to Improve!



Before



After

Rhonda Chambers
Airport Manager
Director of Aviation

The Fort Dodge Regional Airport has experienced some significant changes which have led to great improvements! This past spring a renovation took place that completely transformed the passenger terminal from the 80s to today. The project included replacing the “80s mauve” palette with a professional business palette including cherry wood, black, greens, and browns. The \$100,000+ project included carpet (appropriately named “Jet Propel”) and paint, a suspended lighting system, redesigned ticket counters, and a new Wi-Fi counter with power for charging electronic devices. The terminal offers free Wi-Fi for our customers providing them with hassle free internet access. The tickets counters have “built in” kiosk stations and were designed by partnering with Delta Airlines to meet their operational needs and make the space as efficient as possible.

Just as the paint was drying and the carpet was being installed, another significant change occurred. On June 10th Delta Airlines began offering direct flights to Minneapolis

without a stop in Mason City. In addition, they adjusted the flight times to leave at 6:50 am instead of 5:00 am and the last flight arrives at 8:50 pm instead of 11:00 pm. The result of these improvements was an increase in airline enplanements that rose above expectations. Increases over 2009: June up 25% - July up 40% - August up 67% - September up 68%. If you include the Honor Flight Charter in September, the total enplanements were up 101% over 2009. The last time the airport recorded that number of enplanements in a month was August of 2001, a month before 9/11. In

addition, it is important to note that in 2001 there were four flights per day compared to the current two daily flights. The numbers speak for themselves in that the improvements are exactly what the customer wanted.

Additional improvements on the horizon are reconstruction of both runways and Delta’s plan to phase out the SAAB 340 aircraft and replace it with regional jet aircraft. The airport commission and staff are grateful for the support from our community, region, state, and federal partners and look forward to meeting the challenges that lie ahead! ✈



Eastern Iowa Airport Runway Reopens

The Eastern Iowa Airport reopened its primary runway, Runway 9/27 earlier this fall, after being closed for more than three months during a reconstruction project.

The reopening of the airport's primary runway was the culmination of a multi-phase project that began in 2006. Work in the earlier phases involved transforming a taxiway into a temporary runway, which allowed the airport to remain open during the entirety of the project.

Runway 9/27, at 8,600 feet long, was closed June 3 for the final phase, in which the runway was completely rehabilitated, including rebuilding the intersection of the airport's main and secondary runways. It was the first time the runway had undergone a complete rehabilitation since the airport opened in the 1940s.

This summer's project was the largest single season construction project in the airport's history, costing an estimated \$22 million. Airport officials are awaiting the final tally, but the total cost of the project is estimated at \$46.8 million.

The majority of the project's funding – 87% - is from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Part

of the FAA funding is from a Letter of Intent that the Airport received in 2006, pledging \$26.6 million for the project. The airport, a self-sustaining operation, will pay for the remainder of the project through airport-user fees.

Airport and city officials celebrated the project September 17 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Airport staff, engineering consultants

Foth, with offices in Cedar Rapids and general contractor Hawkins Construction of Omaha, NE was credited for completing the construction more than a week ahead of schedule. In addition, Hawkins employed several local businesses as sub-contractors. At the height of work this summer more than 200 jobs were created from this project. ✈




We wish to thank these organizations for sponsoring this newsletter.

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Save the dates for the 2011 Iowa Aviation Conference held April 20-21 at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines. Information for attendees, sponsors, and exhibitors is available at the Office of Aviation website www.iawings.com, the Iowa Public Airports Association website www.iowaairports.org, or by calling Sue Heath at 515-727-0667. ✈



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