



PLANE TALK

Publication of Statewide Aviation

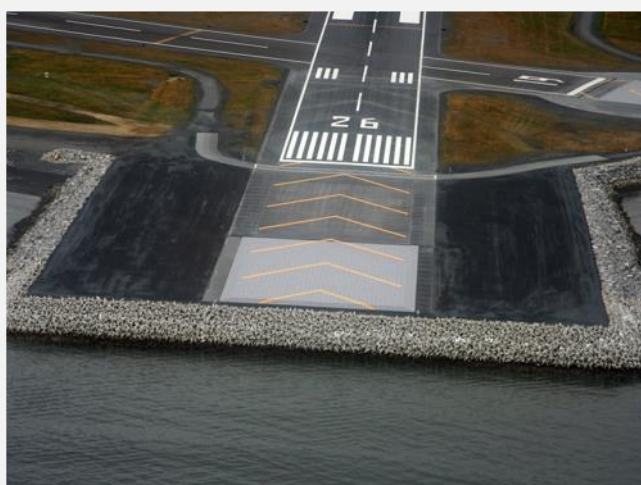


Summer 2016



Kodiak Airport Builds Into Gulf of Alaska

Photo Courtesy Mike Brown



EMAS at end of runway stops an aircraft overrun

The Kodiak Airport Runway Safety Area Extension project required a unique design solution of building into the Gulf of Alaska and using an engineered material arresting system (EMAS) that stops aircraft overrun. Kiewit Infrastructure West moved more than 1.2 million tons of borrow from the Kodiak island and barged 63,000 tons of armor stone 800 nautical miles from the Wrangell Harbor Quarry.

The project increased the safety and economic vitality of the Kodiak community. Also, the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station uses the airport as a base for Search and Rescue missions and training exercises. Kiewit completed the project in less than 18 months for \$59 million - funded primarily through the FAA's Airport Improvement Program.

Message from DC Binder:



Hello Alaska, and happy summer!

Aviation is a way of life for Alaskans. There are over 10,000 pilots registered here, and more private pilots per capita than anyplace else in the world! Alaska is still a true frontier offering pilots a sense of adventure and freedom.

DOT&PF supports numerous aviation events at our airports and encourage all to participate in and enjoy the spirit of aviation in our state. Kicking off the summer flying season were the Valdez Fly-In and Air Show and the Talkeetna Hudson Memorial Fly-In. Beautiful weather contributed to huge turnouts and great flying at both events. Fairbanks Aviation Day is held at the Fairbanks International Airport and gives the public and families a chance to learn more about airport operations, tours, mini-seminars, a pancake breakfast, and free flights for youth.

The Great Alaskan Aviation Gathering is held annually at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport attended by more than 20,000 pilots and aviation enthusiasts. Congratulations to Dee Hansen and the Alaska Airmen's Association for another tremendous event.

Coming up in July is the [Arctic Thunder Air Show](#) at Joint Base Elmendorf - Richardson where you'll see amazing demonstrations by the US Navy Blue Angels, Commemorative Air Force, and many others. The event is free and provides a tremendous opportunity to both interact with those willfully choosing to defend our freedom and also enjoy demonstrations from just a few aircraft that make up the world's most formidable air power.

An early spring got our airport construction season off to a good start, and you'll see later in the issue several projects that have been looked forward to for years. Please check for project status updates and use caution when operating in and around the sites.

I want to send out a big thank you to the FAA for the Airports Workshop they hosted earlier this month. Forums such as these provide invaluable opportunities for knowledge sharing, problem solving, and building relationships with the numerous agencies critical to aviation across Alaska. The tremendous turn-out speaks to both the need and the partnerships already in place between our state and federal agencies. Job well done!

As the legislative session draws to a close I want to emphasize the ongoing effort within DOT&PF to find further efficiencies and cost-savings opportunities across our aviation system. I value your inputs and solicit your participation as we seek innovative solutions to age-old challenges. You are the heart of Alaska's aviation and we need your ideas as we strive to find new and better ways to be good stewards of our limited resources. Alaskans depend on aviation, and so we depend on you.

Enjoy your summer, and Happy Landings!

John Binder
Deputy Commissioner



Record crowds attend Fairbanks Aviation Day

DOT&PF SUPPORTS LARGEST AVIATION GATHERING

The Alaska Airmen's Association sponsors the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering - the state's premier aviation event held in early May. Over 25,000 aviation enthusiasts went to the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport to enjoy static airplane displays, catch up with friends, and learn about the latest in aviation technology and supplies. DOT&PF airport managers and staff are on-hand to provide information and answer questions over the busy weekend event.



(L-R) Sammy Loud and Jamie Brooks staff the DOT&PF booth at the Great Alaska Aviation Gathering.



Mary O'Connor, Aviation Safety Program Manager with NIOSH and Alaska Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Representative Tom George (far right) at the AOPA booth.

Want to Learn More About the Alaska Aviation System Plan?

The Alaska Aviation System Plan provides additional resources to state aviation stakeholders as we work together to build and maintain a safe and efficient aviation system. The AASP is a continuous planning approach for the evaluation and development of strategies that meet the needs of present operations while addressing needs, challenges, and opportunities of the future. Upcoming work in 2016 includes:

- Project prioritization automation
- Internal website enhancements including a photo management module
- CIMP inspections
- Seaplane base performance measures

One of the focuses of the AASP Public Involvement Plan is to increase communication with aviation stakeholders. If you're interested in learning more about the AASP or would like a presentations please contact Rebecca Rauf at 269-0728 or Rebecca.Rauf@alaska.gov

More information and deliverables are available on the AASP website: www.alaskaasp.com

Upcoming Events

JULY 30th & 31st - Arctic Thunder Air Show
Bring the family out to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and enjoy the largest air show in Alaska. Admission is free!

DON'T MISS! . . . Hangar Flying
Episodes air on KAKM Channel 7 at 5:40 p.m., every Monday and Friday.

YOUR AVIATION LINK! - Join Rob Stapleton weekly as he covers aviation events and stories statewide on Channel 4 News at 9:00 p.m. and Channel 13 News at 10:00 p.m. (Statewide coverage)



Airport Improvements

Millions in Airport Projects

DOT&PF receives on average \$135 million annually in Airport Improvement Program funds from the FAA for airfield capital improvements, buildings, snow removal equipment, surface maintenance, repairs, and planning grants. Some of the larger projects underway this summer include:

Ambler Airport - rehabilitate and widen the runways and safety areas, taxiway, and apron.

Cold Bay Airport - rehabilitate the main and cross-wind runways.

Coldfoot Airport - resurface the runway, taxiway, and apron.

Gulkana Airport - resurface the main apron, part of taxiway B, and the medevac apron.

Hooper Bay Airport - rehabilitate the runway with all gravel surface, rehabilitate and extend taxiway, relocate and expand apron, reconstruct airport access road.

Pilot Station Airport - construct new airport and 2.7 mile airport access road.

Scammon Bay Airport - resurface runway and apron, reconstruct taxiway and access road, reconstruct runway safety area embankment.

Shismaref Airport - resurface the runway, taxiway, and apron.

Talkeetna Airport - resurface all existing pavement, construct a new transient apron, a general aviation apron, connection taxiways, taxilanes, a pathway, and access roads.

Yakutat Airport - rehabilitate runway 11/29 to include raising the runway 29 end above the existing water table.

Alaska Airlines Investing \$100 Million in Terminals, Hangar, and Freighters

Alaska Airlines will be investing close to \$100 million dollars over the next three years in the State of Alaska. Included in that amount is \$32 million to enhance all 11 of their passenger terminals - beginning this year with terminals in Barrow, Kotzebue, Yakutat, Cordova, and Kodiak. Plans are also underway for a new \$50 million hangar facility in Anchorage, and \$18 million to convert three next-generation 737 aircraft to freighters.



Alaska Airlines' new hangar in Anchorage will accommodate two 737-Max9 aircraft.

Alaska Airlines & Virgin America Coming Together!

Alaska Airlines acquisition of Virgin America will add 7 million to the 32 million passengers currently served by the airline and make them the 5th largest airline in the nation. The merger should be finalized by 2018. Alaska Airlines was founded in 1932 in Anchorage and today serves 104 destinations of which 19 are in Alaska.



Everyday Lean Innovations and Ideas

DOT&PF's Everyday Lean Innovations and Ideas Program has been a resounding success with many excellent ideas generated by employees from across the state. Commissioner Awards are given for exceptional cost savings, efficiency and innovative suggestions. Commissioner Luiken and the DOT leadership team presents winners with certificates recognizing their contributions to the Department. Highlighted below are airport winners from 2015. Congratulations to all!



**Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport
Commissioner's Innovation of the Year Award and Everyday Idea Facility Award
Dennis Deering, Zaramie Lindseth, Ron Silva, Phil Doherty, and Larry Swanson**



**Fairbanks International Airport
Commissioner's Everyday Idea Efficiency Award
Garbage Incineration Scheduling
Rebekah Wenger and Frank Walter**



**Nenana M&O
Commissioner's Safety Innovation of the Year Award
Eric Nelson and Joel Davidson**

Archie League 2016 Winners

The National Air Traffic Controllers Association honors air traffic controllers who perform “above and beyond” under extraordinary circumstances. This year’s “[Archie League](#)” winners include two Alaskans and here’s their story:

Thirty-year air traffic control veteran Ron Sparks and twenty-six year veteran Mike Thomas were on position at Anchorage Center (ZAN) Nov. 30, 2015, when aircraft N-256V flew into their sector on its way to Nome, Alaska. A low cloud ceiling and limited visibility began to affect the pilot’s ability to successfully land at Nome. After his second failed attempt to land, the pilot requested information on other airports.

Sparks and Thomas found an alternate airport – Unalakleet – about 100 miles to the east, and began vectoring the aircraft there. While en route to Unalakleet, the pilot began to sound nervous about the change in direction and wanted to turn back and try Nome again. Both Sparks and Thomas knew the aircraft was running low on fuel and would not make it to Nome.

They encouraged the pilot to continue on to Unalakleet. They wanted to prevent the pilot from getting stranded and running out of options in dangerous weather as conditions at Nome continued to deteriorate. When the pilot reached Unalakleet, he realized he did not have the approach plates for the airport, so Sparks and Thomas provided him the information to land. The pilot landed with just six minutes of fuel remaining. Sparks’ and Thomas’ calm and steady direction saved a life that day.



Ron Sparks and Mike Thomas - 2016 Winners of the Archie League Awards (Photo courtesy FAA)

FAA Airports Division Hosts Workshop

Over 190 people attended a two-day workshop hosted by the FAA Alaskan Region Airports Division. The workshop included presentations on airport programs, safety initiatives, and current policies. In addition, break out sessions gave all an opportunity to interact and easily ask questions of the FAA staff and speakers.

Airport Managers, DOT&PF engineers, planners, leasing, operations personnel, and consultants learned valuable information and technical knowledge.



Byron Huffman, FAA Airports Division Manager, welcomes all to the 2016 FAA Workshop.



(L-R) Vinera Erickson, Kimber Amundson, and Rebecca Rauf with DOT&PF participated in the workshop.

Fly-Ins - Kick Off Summer Season



Robert Pedersen of North Carolina was the winner of the Light Sport class in the STOL competition - with a take off of 54 ft. and 49 ft. landing - the shortest of the contest!

The Valdez Fly-In and Air Show celebrated its 13th year with more than 140 airplanes and thousands of spectators attending the three day event. Competitions included a Poker Run, STOL, Flour Bombing, Aerobatics, and Static Displays. (Photos - Justin Prax)



The Hudson Memorial Fly-In celebrated its 6th year with over 100 aircraft participating in a Poker Run, Aerial Scavenger Hunt, Take-off and Landing Demonstrations, and free flights for kids. (Photos - Stephen Hanson, DOT&PF)



Our mission is to:

“Keep Alaska Moving through

service and infrastructure.”

To learn more visit our website: dot.alaska.gov

To receive Plane Talk sign up here:



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