

FAA Projects Grants**3-26-0153-3915 Airfield Pavement Marking, Access Control and Gate Improvements, Airport ALP update and Approach Survey:**

Airfield Pavement Marking: This project was completed without any issues; the contractor was able to come in a couple of days early and finished the project within 4 days.

Access Control and Gate Improvements: On schedule for a spring completion, the access control project will provide the conversion from keys to proximately cards within the commercial terminal, Airport Services Center and upgrades to five of the vehicle access gates. This project is being completed in conjunction with the updating of the Airport Security Plan that will provide the necessary policies and procedures to support larger passenger aircraft operations at Sawyer International Airport. All vendors, contractors, and tenants requiring access through- the-fence will participate in a revised driving test along with mandatory issuance of a media badge providing secure access into specific gates and doors. These improvements allow for easy identification and tracking and will be fully operational by all users early this summer.

Airport ALP Update and Approach Survey: Beginning with an aerial survey (completed in September 2015) and ALP planning stages this project has been fast-tracked by the FAA. This will insure the runway rehabilitation project remains on course. The purpose of this project is to revise the airport layout plan to reflect the proposed shortened runway and to provide the necessary data for the new approach path onto runway 19. The project is 70% completed.

Expansion of the Commercial Air Carrier Hold Room: Sawyer staff has begun dialog with the FAA and Michigan Aeronautics about the need to expand the existing security hold area for our commercial passengers. In our pursuits to attract larger aircraft, we must look ahead as space is limited in the current, post-security, check point. Staff will continue to provide the FAA with documentation supporting our need via a request for Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) funding.

Airport Security Upgrades:

Security: Sawyer International Airport currently operates under a Category IV security level and is taking steps toward the next level of airport security by transitioning into a Category III. Under the current Cat IV level, the airport is restricted to a maximum number of 60 seats or less per aircraft. The progression to a Cat III security level will allow Sawyer to follow suit and grow with the airlines in the future operation of aircraft with 61 seats or larger.

Airservice Development/Trillion Aviation Airservice Consulting:

American /Envoy Flights: American Airlines/Envoy implemented operations of CRJ-700 aircraft at Sawyer on January 2016 and operated until the first week of April as a regularly scheduled passenger flight while maintenance was completed on the aircraft. This aircraft provided 66-seats versus the 50-seat jets we are accustomed to and was very well received by our passengers. American Airlines discontinued operating the larger plane at Sawyer until such time as our security upgrades are in place. Staff has been working closely with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) on the implementation of an interim security plan allowing for the return of the aircraft operations while final upgrades and policies are established.

Delta Air Lines Flight Schedule/SkyWest Airlines: Delta Air Lines will be adding an additional round-trip flight to Detroit from July 9th through July 23rd. These flights will depart after the normal Delta morning flight and will return early evening before the regularly scheduled return flight. This flight will remain overnight for the two-week operation, and should provide the necessary increase in capacity during peak summer travel time. Dialog regarding an additional flight to Minneapolis/St Paul flight continues.

JumpStart 2016: Staff will be attending the upcoming 2016 Air Carrier JumpStart conference; a network of airport and airline representatives posturing for new routes and/or increased flight schedules. Staff (including Trillion Aviation, the Air Service consultant hired to assist Sawyer in airline recruitment) will be meeting with United Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Public Charters, and Great Lakes Airlines to discuss current and future flight options at Sawyer international Airport.

U.S. Army Icing Operation Update:

The Army has signed a Letter of Intent for the third, consecutive, year in a row. Confirmation will follow in July - once agreements with their customer base have been established. If confirmed, the U.S. Army will return for winter testing operations between September 2016 and April 2017.

Operations:

While the winter season came in very mildly, it soon became a typical U.P. winter with frequent, unpredictable, snow events. Staff completed winter operations without incident and now that winter has released its grip are diligently performing their spring/summer operational routines.