Chippewa County airport reopens after $3.5 million runway resurfacing project

140714

Marcy Misner/Amy

**Chip Co Runway Project completed — wrap**

(:50)

The Chippewa County airport held its unveiling today (Monday) for a $3-and-a-half million runway resurfacing project.

Dignitaries and airport staff hosted an open house to welcome passengers back to the airport.

Marcy Misner was there and has this report.

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It’s been years since the Chippewa county airport got a spring cleaning like this. Workers spruced up the 12-year-old airport facilities while local contractors worked outside. Over a 3-week period crews completely resurfaced the airport’s 7,200 foot runway.

Tom Ewing is president of the county’s Economic Development Corporation, which manages the airport.

**The big story really is $3.5 million worth of federal money coming into the Eastern Upper Peninsula and benefitting a host of local companies. Primary contractor Payne & Dolan called it their biggest project of the year and they’re actually submitting it for an award in their industry. (:18)**

The airport is on former U.S. Air Force flight facility.

It hosts 13 flights a week.

SOQ

goings-on

Chippewa County airport reopens after $3.5 million runway resurfacing project

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Marcy Misner/Amy

CIU—1--

(:33)

The Chippewa County airport has reopened after a $3.5 million runway resurfacing project was completed recently. The airport hosts 13 flights a week.

By some accounts, more than half the flyers are Canadians.

Linda Hoath, the executive director of the Sault Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, explains.

**CIU—1—**

**The airport is so important to who we are. And to tourism and into the community and for business. We are a community and a region that really depends on air travel in. If you take a look at this region and what we have with the international, Canada, just 20 miles down the road, Canadian travelers come over here and fly out of here. They use this airport like they use their own airport. They’ve already come through customs, they’ve already done all of that, so they can fly anywhere in the United States then, and it makes it so much easier. (:33)**

The airport runway was part of a U.S. Air Force installation in the 1970s before it was converted and reopened as the county’s airport 12 years ago. This is the first major refurbishment of the facility, which included a complete resurfacing of the main runway.

Chippewa County airport reopens after $3.5 million runway resurfacing project

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Marcy Misner/Amy

CIU—2--

(:32)

The Chippewa County airport has reopened after a $3.5 million runway resurfacing project was completed last month. Airport officials hosted an open house Monday to welcome travelers back to the newly renovated facility.

Travelers from both sides of the border depend on the facility for commerce and tourism.

Tami Besau (bee-saw) is the airport manager.

**CIU—2—**

**At the present time if you were to look at the parking lot and just look at license plates, it seems that 70 percent of our traffic are the Canadian travelers. They really do support this airport. They find that with the Customs clearance, the prices and that sort of thing – but remember too that the 30 percent, or a little higher being local travelers too, definitely stimulates the economy. With the jet service we are able to get a business traveler out of here at 6 o’clock in the morning and back at 9 o’clock at night. Definitely impacts the local economy here. (:32)**

Workers spruced up the 12-year-old airport facilities while local contractors worked outside. Over a 3-week period crews completely resurfaced the airport’s 7,200 foot runway.

**WEB VERSION**

The Chippewa County airport held its unveiling Monday for a $3-and-a-half million runway resurfacing project.

Dignitaries and airport staff hosted an open house to welcome passengers back to the airport.

Last month, workers spruced up the 12-year-old airport facilities while local contractors worked outside. Over a 3-week period crews completely resurfaced the airport’s 7,200-foot runway.  The airport runway was part of a U.S. Air Force installation in the 1970s before it was converted and reopened as the county’s airport 12 years ago. This is the first major refurbishment of the facility, which included a complete resurfacing of the main runway.

Tom Ewing is president of the county’s Economic Development Corporation, which manages the airport.

“The big story really is $3.5 million worth of federal money coming into the Eastern Upper Peninsula and benefitting a host of local companies. Primary contractor Payne & Dolan called it their biggest project of the year and they’re actually submitting it for an award in their industry,” Ewing said.

 Linda Hoath, the executive director of the Sault Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, explained how important the airport is to this region. Travelers from both sides of the border depend on the facility for commerce and tourism.

“The airport is so important to who we are. And to tourism and into the community and for business. We are a community and a region that really depends on air travel in. If you take a look at this region and what we have with the international, Canada, just 20 miles down the road, Canadian travelers come over here and fly out of here. They use this airport like they use their own airport. They’ve already come through customs, they’ve already done all of that, so they can fly anywhere in the United States then, and it makes it so much easier,” Hoath said.

“At the present time if you were to look at the parking lot and just look at license plates, it seems that 70 percent of our traffic are the Canadian travelers,” said Tami Besau, the airport’s manager.

“They really do support this airport. They find that with the Customs clearance, the prices and that sort of thing – but remember too that the 30 percent, or a little higher being local travelers too, definitely stimulates the economy. With the jet service we are able to get a business traveler out of here at 6 o’clock in the morning and back at 9 o’clock at night. Definitely impacts the local economy here,” Besau said.

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Linda Hoath CVB