

COBB COUNTY AIRPORT - MCCOLLUM FIELD

NEWSLETTER

July 2013

Air Traffic Operations

There were 30,040 takeoff and landings for the first six months of 2013 which is 2% below last year's activity. IFR traffic is flat year over year.

Air Traffic Controllers (Federal Contract Tower Program)

In May Congress acted to remedy the impact of the Federal Budget Sequestration by granting the Federal Aviation Administration the authority to draw upon the Airport Improvement Trust Fund to fund the Federal Contract Tower Program and to eliminate the Air Traffic Controller furloughs. Current drafts of the Congressional FY14 Budgets include a special line item for fully funding the Federal Contract Tower Program in FY14, which if passed would prevent the FAA from being able to make wholesale cutting of this program.

The County recognizes the importance of the control tower to the safety and economic benefit of the community, and during the proposed termination of funding for Contract Towers, the County pursued multiple options to assure the control tower would remain operational.

Storm Water Permit (NPDES)

The new Stormwater Permit required by the State and Federal Governments has been implemented on the airport to protect waterways from polluted storm water runoff. All Airports are required to implement the new the new permit requirements since airports are identified as a regulated activity.

The most significant impact of the new permit requirements to the aircraft owner/pilot is the aircraft washing restrictions.

The new NPDES permit requires that aircraft and vehicle wash water must be collected and disposed of properly at airports. The following aircraft washing requirements are in effect:

- ALLOWED:
1. Dry Washing Aircraft and Vehicles
 2. Fresh Water Rinse (use clean water and **"NO"** soap products)
 3. Traditional Aircraft Wash w/ Soap if **all wash water is captured** by a hangar drain with an oil/water separator or collected into a containment tank and disposed of properly.

NOT ALLOWED:

1. Washing an aircraft or vehicle with a soap product outside or in a hangar without an oil/water separator or containment tank.
2. Using pressure washers to fresh water rinse an aircraft. (A Fresh Water Rinse should be equivalent to the effect of a rain event.)

*** All soap products are restricted, including labels such as "biodegradable" or "environmentally safe/friendly" soap.**

The Airport and the FBO continue to search for an economical option for a wash location that meets the requirements of the new permit.

New Air Traffic Control Tower

A design/build contract has been awarded to Peter Brown Construction, Inc. team for the design and construction of a new air traffic control tower. Peter Brown Construction is located in Marietta, Ga. The base contract is for the design of the control tower and a future supplement to the contract will be for the construction when federal and state grant funds become available.

A Site Selection Study has been completed for the new ATCT location. The Study began with five potential sites, and concluded that the best suited site for the new ATCT is north and adjacent to the existing ATCT, pending Board approval.

U.S. Customs Facility

The General Aviation Customs Facility is currently under design. The location for the approximate 2,800 sqft facility will be on the east end of the south apron. Coordination is continuing with the U.S Customs and Border Protection on the design review of the facility. Once construction is complete, the CBP must perform certain installations and procedures so an exact opening date is hard to project but the goal is as soon as possible after the first of the new year international arrivals will be welcomed.

Taxiway A and B Extension Project

Bids have been received for the extensions of Taxiway A and B to the end of Runway 9. This project is competing for a Federal/State Aviation Grant funding for construction to begin in the fall of 2013. Federal Airport Grants are funded by the Aviation Trust Fund which is fully funded by the users of aviation services, including the federal tax on aviation fuel. The Extension of Taxiway A and B Project has an estimated construction period of 60 days. The work will require periodic night time closures when work is necessary inside the runway safety areas. Night time has been defined as 10:00 pm to 6:00 am. The contractor will work with the Airport Engineer to minimize the closures and to schedule closures with as much advanced notice as practical. (72-hours notice is the goal)

North Apron Taxilane Connector Project

Bids have been received for the construction of a new Taxilane Connector to the north apron just east of the Flightworks Hangar. This new apron connector will alleviate the congestion found on the terminal apron at Taxiway A2. The project is competing for a Federal/State Aviation Grant funding for construction to begin in the fall of 2013. Federal Airport Grants are funded by the Aviation Trust Fund which is fully funded by the users of aviation services, including the federal tax on aviation fuel. The New North Apron Taxilane Connector Project has an estimated construction period of 45 days. Taxiway A from A1 to A2 will require occasional closing for construction activity and the north apron connector at A1 will be closed during all construction activity

If you have any questions or comments please reply to: karl.vonhagel@cobbcounty.org

Karl Von Hagel, A.A.E.
Airport Manager