



## DULUTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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14 November 2017

RE: Runway 9/27 Opening

Dear Airport Stakeholders,

I appreciate your continued patience as our contractor works to finish Phase 1 and 2 of the Runway 9/27 reconstruction. Despite winter's early arrival this year, work has continued in an effort to prepare the runway for normal operations. As you know concrete paving finished November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Since that time our contractor, PCI has been working on a number of items that are required to open the runway including installation of runway lighting and surface painted markings.

Barring further delays, I expect the runway to be open November 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is the soonest we anticipate being able to open the runway due to the winter weather challenges posed over the last three weeks. Upon opening the runway, additional work remains to be done which will either be completed during intermittent scheduled closures this winter or delayed until next summer.

One of the work items we are prioritizing to commence this winter is pavement saw-cut grooving. Specialized equipment is required to cut a series of perpendicular grooves into the runway surface that allow water to drain to the shoulders. The grooves cannot be cut until the concrete has properly cured. While this work is not required for substantial completion of the runway project it is helpful in winter conditions to enhance braking-action. There are only two contractors in the country who do this kind of work. PCI has contracted with one set to arrive no later than November 29<sup>th</sup>. In anticipation of the concrete curing, we have tried for weeks to get them to arrive earlier but to date, have not been successful. Once the contractor arrives it is anticipated the work will take 20 working days to complete. We have made a numerous requests of PCI that would help shorten the time needed to complete grooving and we are pressing them to implement as many as possible.

Scheduled runway closures are anticipated in order to complete concrete grooving. Until the runway surface is grooved, longer recovery times from winter weather events are unavoidable even with our maintenance staff working diligently, around the clock, to return the runway to normal service. More time and more sand will be required while the runway is un-grooved.

Our continuous monitoring program will continue as it does every winter. Pilots will have the latest runway conditions posted via the NOTAM system per usual. Also, as a reminder, Runway 3/21 will remain open and available pending normal winter weather variables.



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Once again, thank you for your cooperation and patience during this once in a lifetime project. Updates will continue to be provided at our Tuesday tenants meeting and weekly newsletters. Should you have any questions please contact me or Blaine Peterson.

Sincerely,

Tom Werner C.M.

Executive Director

Duluth Airport Authority