

September 23, 2010

City Completes Paving of Airport Runway Extension Thanks to Favourable Weather Conditions

A major project milestone was achieved on Sept. 10 as the paving of the new runway extension at the Campbell River Airport was completed. Crews took advantage of good weather and worked a series of extended shifts to successfully complete the placement of the second and final lift (or layer) of asphalt. The asphalt quality control and quality assurance testing has since been completed, and the installation has been found to be in compliance with contract specifications.

“Progress on this project has been excellent, and we are right on schedule,” said Mayor Charlie Cornfield. *“Our supervisory staff and local contractors are doing a great job bringing the project in on time and on budget.”*

Airport runway paving is done in two phases to achieve the asphalt thickness and density necessary to support aircraft takeoff and landing. Paving is one of the few elements of this project that is entirely weather dependent; the detailed and stringent specifications could not be met if asphalt were laid in rainy weather.

“We had some bad weather in the two-week window that we allowed for paving, but it didn’t affect progress, so this was a definite win,” said Ron Neufeld, general manager of operations at the City of Campbell River. *“We are expecting that the runway will be fully operational at its new length of 6,500 feet by mid-November.”*

Local contractor Tayco Paving, working under general contractor Wacor Holdings, extended work shifts to take advantage of daylight hours and good weather. By extending a 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. shift to a 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. shift, they were able to complete the work on time.

The next steps for the project involve grooving and line painting once the pavement has cured and achieved the required hardness. The contractor’s team will also be shifting their focus to the installation of the relocated runway edge lighting system and associated electrical distribution.

Construction at the airport has been broken into several components, with the runway extension work being delivered by Wacor Holdings Ltd in cooperation with NAV Canada. NAV Canada is looking after the relocation of the sensitive electronics that are required to provide navigation to incoming and outgoing pilots. NAV Canada is on site this month, replacing the existing runway’s Instrument Landing System (ILS) localizer, glide path electronics and antenna systems. This work is part of a national upgrade program that was initially scheduled for future years. Nav Canada agreed to schedule the ILS replacement to coincide with the runway extension to minimize operational impact to the airport.

In addition to the runway extension, the airport terminal building will receive some minor improvements intended to address existing deficiencies in the building. Work on this component is set to commence this fall.

Construction on the airport project began in July and must be complete before the funding deadline of March 31, 2011. Funds for this \$8.3M project were provided by the federal and provincial governments through the Build Canada Fund – Communities Component, the Island Coast Economic Trust and the City of Campbell River’s airport reserves. For more information, visit the Campbell River Airport website: www.crairport.ca.

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