



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

KIRK T. STEUDLE
DIRECTOR

February 11, 2014

Dear Airport Sponsor:

**SUBJECT: Michigan - State Block Grant Program
User Surveys for Runway Extensions, Reconstructions or Rehabilitations**

Effective with FY 14 programming of airport development under the State Block Grant Program:

1. **User Surveys (Justification Studies) for runway extensions (and/or widening)** to a determined length (and/or width) based on critical aircraft usage will initially be paid for locally by the airport sponsor. Once the extension has been justified and the survey approved by MDOT Office of Aeronautics, an airport sponsor can seek reimbursement as part of the runway extension project. Moving forward with the justified extension will be contingent upon available funding.

Runway extension projects trigger a Runway Safety Area evaluation and subsequent improvement if needed. This would be in accordance with FAA Order 5200.8.

2. **User Surveys (Justification Studies) for runway reconstructions competing for federal discretionary funding** will be associated with the specific project. Reconstruction should provide a minimum useful life of twenty years. Common project is to replace the pavement section down to the existing subgrade. Other examples that would require a User Survey includes changing the actual or potential design aircraft usage or changing the load bearing strength of the pavement.

The User Survey would be coded in AERO PM as "Rehabilitate Runway (specific runway designation) – User Survey" as part of the multi-phased development project. The survey can be funded as a stand-alone project since a defined length and width needs to be justified for the reconstruction. The sponsor should consult with MDOT Office of Aeronautics Programming Section during their annual MAP meeting to discuss the specifics for their situation.

Runway reconstruction projects trigger a Runway Safety Area evaluation and subsequent improvement if needed. This would be in accordance with FAA Order 5200.8.

3. **User Surveys (Justification Studies) for preservation-type runway rehabilitations** are not required. This would include the typical "mill & fill" projects with no change to the existing pavement strength and improving the pavement for the same aircraft classification usage. Rehabilitation should provide a minimum useful life of ten years.

Airport Sponsor
February 11, 2014
Page 2

Any existing runway displacement or approach obstruction must be removed or mitigated as either part of the project or prior to in order to use federal and state funding for the runway rehabilitation.

Preservation-type runway rehabilitation projects do not trigger a Runway Safety Area evaluation unless a known improvement is needed.

Please contact the MDOT Office of Aeronautics to obtain the appropriate user survey forms and instructions, if needed. The point of contact for User Surveys is Mr. Chip Kraus from our office, who will be coordinating the review and approval of these surveys with staff personnel.

Sincerely,



Betsy Steudle, P.E.
Programming Section
Contracts & Grants Unit
Office of Aeronautics

cc: David L. Baker, AERO
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