

# DOWAGIAC AIRPORT - C91- DEBRIEF 024

By: Oscar A.

02/13/025

## Completed Projects:

- Runway LED Edge lights, REILS, Electric Vault building and related systems: Finished on time and operating flawlessly since early spring. Work performed by Mead & White with engineering by Prein & Newhof. Funding: 90% FAA, 5% MDOT aeronautics, 5% City.
- Tree trimming and cutting project- the largest in the past 12 years. Tree growth in both City/Airport and private properties had been encroaching on approaches standards by FAA and State (data by State local inspection and verified by Sate drone data). Airport operated under Provisional License until project completion in December. Special recognition to Gordon Warner for all the assistance with coordination of contractors. Funding: 100% City.



## Standard Maintenance:

- Fuel Farm inspection, maintenance and MI Weights & Measures certification by Sparling Corp.
- Airport snowplow truck yearly maintenance by DSP.
- Turf runway maintenance: record tedious 28miles logged on roller!

## Events:

- Hosted FAA- FAAST Team- Two Seminars- Reoccurring Pilot Education with 28 attendees.
- Fireworks- Promoted by the Young Professionals of Dowagiac.
- Youth Aviation Day: Group of 25 homeschoolers (ages 4 thru 12) along their parents/guardians.
- Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce-Business after hours at the terminal building.
- The return of the EAA 1028 Fly-in: Fire Department Pancake breakfast fundraiser, 42 visiting aircraft including a rare Junkers Junior, 1928, 1942 and 2024 Waco biplanes among others...

## Activities:

- Conventional Air- Bob Danielson, completed 18 Tail Wheel Endorsements, 5 Flight reviews and over 6 hours of Recurrent Tail Wheel Training.
- Fox Trot Flight School-Mathew Harrison, finished with the exterior remodeling of the old terminal building, continues remodeling the inside. With over 1300 flights, 4 aircraft, 3 instructors, 37 discovery flights, and an average roster of 25 students, kept the airport very busy in 2024 and reflected on the increased sales av gas...

- One reported accident in July, no injuries, pilot error, aircraft totaled.
- Kyle Kennedy, A&P mechanic- completed the rebuilt of a Cessna 206, now operating in the far east as a Missionary/Ambulance aircraft.



Future Projects:

At this moment, it is uncertain how the current New Administration will affect the current Federal and State funding for airports and aviation in the future.

We are required to maintain a Capital Improvement Plan and continue to aggressively seek all available grants.

For 2025 we have been approved for the reconstruction of our apron and taxiway. We have been postponing this project in favor of others (new hangars and runway light system, available funding etc.). But now and based on the multiple engineering pavements condition reports provided by MDOT Aeronautics, this project is a must. Unfortunately, unlike the previous similar project, nearly 25 years ago, funding is restricted and will not allow for paving to private hangars, please see below:



Also, we have applied for and it's currently under consideration and review by MDOT Aeronautics, for 2025-2027, the repaving of our runway. Under the same current funding standards and due to lack of significant traffic from large airplanes (executive style jets and above) their inclination is to reduce the total length of the existing runway from the current 4700ft to 3500ft! which brings a few pending questions:

- Who will pay for the removal and relocation of the newly installed runway lights and systems?
- Reducing the runway length will prevent the ability to have larger airplanes land at the airport indefinitely, based on their performance characteristics or insurance limitations...to be continued.



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