



Report

TITLE: 2025 FLAGSTAFF REGIONAL AIRPORT PAVEMENT CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Meeting: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: May 7, 2025

Background

The Flagstaff Regional Airport is a large asset supporting general aviation, aerial spraying, and flight tourism. In preparation for the planned resurfacing of the airport's runway, taxiway, and apron, a preliminary visual inspection of the pavement surfaces was conducted by the County.

WSP Canada had previously conducted site visits to the airport for unrelated evaluations. During those earlier visits, visible signs of base failure — such as surface cracking, rutting, and deformation — were noted. These surface distresses highlight a need to perform a detailed pavement evaluation before proceeding with resurfacing. Addressing these concerns in advance is critical to avoid premature failure of the new pavement and to protect the County's capital investment.

WSP Canada has provided a proposal to carry out a comprehensive pavement condition assessment. Their proposed scope of work includes:

- A full visual inspection of pavement surfaces and associated drainage infrastructure.
- Geotechnical coring and subsurface investigations to determine the existing pavement and base layer conditions.
- Topographic surveying to support project planning and pavement marking design.
- Preparation of detailed draft and final engineering reports, including recommended repair strategies and cost estimates.

Importantly, the findings from the assessment may impact the overall scope and cost of the upcoming resurfacing project. If substantial underlying deficiencies are discovered, these would need to be addressed either prior to or as part of the resurfacing work to avoid premature pavement failure and higher future maintenance costs. Depending on the extent of the repairs required, this could result in a total project cost that exceeds the currently approved budget of \$300,000 for the resurfacing work.

The total estimated cost for WSP Canada to complete the pavement condition assessment is \$35,044. This includes \$32,044 in professional fees and an additional \$3,000 for disbursements such as travel, materials, and related expenses.

This investment is essential to ensure that the resurfacing project is designed and executed based on verified subsurface conditions, ultimately ensuring that the County's larger investment in the airport infrastructure is protected and achieves its intended full lifecycle.

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

Fiscal Leadership – Flagstaff County will balance the servicing and program needs of the community with consistent, prudent and transparent financial management.

Alternatives/Options

1. Option #1 - To approve of initiating the Airport Pavement Condition Assessment with a budget of \$35,044 to be funded by Airport Reserves.
2. Option #2 - To proceed with resurfacing without assessment, accepting the risk of unknown underlying failures.

Note – As of December 31, 2024, the Airport Reserve balance is \$621,587, with no current allocations assigned.

Recommendation

THAT Council approve to initiate the Airport Pavement Condition assessment with a budget of \$35,044 to be funded by Airport Reserves.