



Rutland Airport Increases Safety with Runway Improvements

The Rutland State Airport is undergoing a multi-phase project that improves safety for aviators and for cars approaching the airport. As a result of multiple accidents across the country involving aircraft overrunning or undershooting runways with injuries and deaths resulting, Congress mandated that all Part 139 airports (including Rutland) enhance passenger safety by addressing Runway Safety Areas (RSAs) by 2015. The project, which is nearing completion, started in 2011 by moving the access road to the airport. This created more space between the road and runway, increasing safety for users of both. This phase also paved the way for additional runway and taxiway improvements.

Phase 2 added a runway safety area at the north end of the primary runway and was completed in the fall of 2014. It included approximately 250,000 cubic yards of fill and a 230 by 30 foot retaining wall. In the event that a plane runs off the runway end, this addition increases safety by building out the RSA to meet the new standards.

Currently, Phase 3 is underway. This is the most complicated phase of the overall work as it entails the construction of a two-tiered retaining wall, the relocation of the localizer antennae (used for Air Navigation in inclement weather), and the construction of the Engineered Materials Arrestor System (EMAS) which is similar to a run-a-way truck stop, but for aircraft. The EMAS replaces the need to build out fill to the south of the airport 1000 feet. VTTrans is anticipating all improvements will be complete by the end of year. When the project is finished, the Rutland Airport will be completely up to date with the FAA's most recent safety requirements.