



May 19, 2021

Chico Municipal Airport Receives Funds For Taxiway Upgrade

April 1, 2021

By Natalie Hansen

Summarized from an article by same in the Chico Enterprise Record of this date.

It was reported in the April 1, 2021 Enterprise Record that the City had received additional funds from the Federal Aviation Agency to complete a major taxiway reconstruction. The total project is expected to cost approximately \$6.6M. This was announced at the airport on March 30, 2021 by the City Director of Public Works, Eric Gustafson who was accompanied by Chico Mayor, Andrew Coolidge, and Representative Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale). This project is funded 90% by the FAA as part of their Airport Improvement Program (AIP) with the remainder coming from the Corona Virus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. The completion of this project by contractor Knife River Construction is expected to be a significant step in the ultimate goal of returning commercial air service to Chico with a hopefully direct connection to Los Angeles.

Chico Chamber of Commerce President Katy Thoma agreed. "It's been a long, slow process, and COVID-19 has slowed it down, but when we see these funds coming in, we know there's hope that eventually we're going to have air service in Chico.

We know from the economic development side that we need commercial air service in Chico, she said.

"Interim Airport Manager Rod Dinger noted there is much more work to be done once commitments to air service start being made. The terminal itself would require renovation for parking, baggage, Transportation Security Administration staff and more. He said leadership from state and federal representatives has been critical."

"Being in Redding for over 30 years, I've watched Chico from afar and knowing they've made some strides lately, and the previous Airport Manager, Sherry Miller did a great job," Dinger said. "That's so critical to the airport is a healthy taxiway and a healthy runway and then also getting the support for the grant funding to try and return air service area is wonderful. There's no reason to believe that with that effort, we can't make a serious run at returning air service, he added. "But there's many steps to go before that happens."