

Billings Logan Airport Maintenance Project report: 7/23/2013

Tom Binford

- On both weekend one and two we closed the runway Friday morning on schedule and opened Sunday evening on schedule.
- To date we have completed about 5,465 lineal feet of the runway.
- The contractor has a batch plant (where the asphalt is made) on site and they can also haul from a plant off the hill if they experience problems with the on-site plant. That has occurred once so far.
- The main production line consists of 2 large mills and two pavers and all of the trucks, equipment and people that support them. Approximately 20 to 30 trucks, 4-5 booms, multiple rollers, several bobcats and large loaders, etc. are conducting a very impressive, efficient and busy operation.
- We have had a few questions about why we look busy some parts of the day and not so busy other parts of the day. The simple answer is we had to leave time for the asphalt to cool and to be painted before we open the surface. Therefore if they are on schedule they will try to shut down paving Friday and Saturday nights at dark. This lets the asphalt cool and allows the finish rollers time to work on the mat until 2-3 in the morning. We also use the early morning hours for catch up, to service and fix equipment, etc. We then try to limit the Sunday paving operation to the edge of the runway surface since it does not receive the direct pounding that occurs during the landing process or the heavy wheel loading.
- Weekend 3 and 4 are the most difficult ones. The surface in the area we will be working is in poorer shape. We will be milling off more of the surface and repaving it in two lifts. Also prior to paving the second lift we will install an asphalt fabric to deter future cracking, etc. It requires more work in the same amount of time and less room for error.
- I have been very impressed with the contractor. Their leadership team has been good to work with and they are committed to provide us a quality product. Their work force is very skilled and take pride in their work. Their main paving crew is very impressive!
- The Billings Logan Airport appreciates our community's patience and support during this project.