

Yukon Public Aviation System

Progress Report 2023/24



An update from Highways and Public Works




Yukon Public Aviation System Progress Report 2023-24

The Government of Yukon is committed to continuing to advance the Yukon's public aviation system to meet the needs of Yukoners and the aviation industry. The 28 airports and aerodromes that the Government of Yukon operates in the Yukon are key to our territory's emergency service provision, movement of goods and people, the advancement of our economy, the aviation industry and recreation.

In 2021, the Government of Yukon released the Yukon Aviation System Investment Strategy, a multi-year strategy that looked at key investments and recommendations to sustain and advance the public aviation system. In 2022, the Government of Yukon agreed with all the recommendations of the Yukon Aviation Investment Strategy and committed to releasing an annual report charting the progress of the government towards meeting the goals.

This progress report outlines key milestones that the Government of Yukon achieved in 2023-24.

We appreciate the continued partnership with stakeholders and stewards of the Yukon's public aviation system. The members of our Yukon Aviation Advisory Committee (YAAC) are integral to informed investments, services and progress. Together, the government and the industry are moving the public aviation system forward to continue to meet the needs of our territory.



The goals for the Yukon's Public Aviation System

06 – Safety

Promote safety of aerodrome operations

08 – Industry

Support aviation activity and industry in the Yukon

10 – Reliability

Optimize service levels and operational processes to improve service reliability of the Yukon's public aviation system

12 – Community

Support safety, emergency management and community development in Yukon communities

14 – Economics

Improve economic sustainability of the Yukon's public aviation system

16 – Passenger experience

Define the requirements and standards for the passenger and user experience within the Yukon's public aviation system





GOAL

Safety

Promote safety of aerodrome operations



Further develop the culture of safety within the public aviation system through engagement with regulators, service providers and aviation stakeholders, and continued development of the Yukon's aerodrome safety programs.

Status Complete

- **Establishing physical abilities competency testing for Airport Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) personnel:** A physical abilities competency program has been implemented. This milestone for the ARFF program is allowing us to continue to support our employees and the safety of the travelling public.
- **Making health and safety improvements to our facilities:** Across the territory, advancements continue to be made to improve the health and safety of staff and visitors to public airport and aerodrome facilities. Improvements such as the installation of touchless fixtures in public restrooms, renovation of baggage facilities and lighting, and ventilation upgrades continue efforts to make our airport facilities safer.

Status Nearing Completion

- **Adding additional capacity to respond to winter conditions:** In 2023 and 2024, the Transportation Aviation Branch (TAB) is adding new equipment to the fleet to assist our maintenance team in making our airports safer in increasingly snowy and icy winter conditions. Equipment dedicated to clearing snow from airfield lights and signs, as well as breaking up ice on surfaces, will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of managing weather-related impacts to our operations.

Status In Progress

- **Exploring installation of web-accessible video cameras in key locations:** Yukon Aviation Advisory Committee (YAAC) has identified an opportunity to look at current video surveillance throughout the Yukon and ensures it meets the needs of the Yukon aviation community. Although TAB does not currently operate video surveillance offsite of our airports and aerodromes, we will be working with federal partners to better understand the opportunities that may exist to meet the recommendation of YAAC.
- **Reporting current conditions at aerodromes:** The Government of Yukon has several projects underway to improve condition reporting, including the development and implementation of publicly accessible aerodrome condition updates. We will continue to work with NAV Canada and other partners to advance weather-reporting technology at our sites.
- **Improving apron lighting:** Assessments are currently underway to help us understand the technical details of our current apron lighting situations at multiple Yukon public airports and inform steps required to make improvements.



GOAL

Industry



Support aviation activity and industry in the Yukon

Improve collaboration between the Government of Yukon and industry groups to better understand emerging issues and to align our service priorities with industry needs and our available resources.

Status

Complete

- **Supporting interlining agreements benefiting carriers serving the Yukon:** Strengthening partnerships to support the growth of the industry and improving connectivity between multiple airlines.
- **Engaging with tourism industry:** Highways and Public Works continues to engage with the Department of Tourism and Culture and the tourism industry on opportunities for the sector through the public aviation system. The Transportation Aviation Branch met with the tourism industry in spring 2024 and fall 2024 to discuss service levels at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport (ENWIA). This ongoing collaboration and discussion with the tourism industry is important to informing the advancement of the public aviation system.

Status

Nearing Completion

- **ENWIA tenant lease parcel subdivision:** The first phase of the formal subdivision of existing tenant lease parcels at Whitehorse is nearing completion. When complete, subdivided lease parcels will be eligible for registration of leasehold titles which will improve the ability of aviation businesses to leverage the value of their leases and improvements to support business development. The subdivision efforts at Whitehorse will be replicated throughout the public aviation system.

Status

In Progress

- **Engaging with stakeholders:** We are increasing our formal engagement with aviation stakeholders. At the recommendation of the Yukon Aviation Advisory Committee (YAAC), spring and fall all-stakeholder meetings are being hosted to ensure seasonal information is being shared widely with the aviation community.
- **Engaging with the Yukon Aviation Advisory Committee:** We continue to engage and collaborate with members of YAAC. Formal recommendations from YAAC are considered by the Minister and the department to inform economic opportunities and service level discussions as it relates to the aviation industry and territory.



GOAL

Reliability



Optimize service levels and operational processes to improve service reliability of the public aviation system

Develop stronger data analytics capabilities to support our decision-making for operations and service-level planning within the public aviation system, as well as help standardize asset management practices.

Status

Complete

- **Launching Yukon airports' dedicated website:** In winter 2024, the Government of Yukon will launch a dedicated aviation website to serve the needs of the Yukon's public aviation system's passengers and aviation stakeholders.

Status

Nearing Completion

- **Improving terminal building efficiency to support departing ENWIA passengers:** We are currently investigating options to increase the efficiency and usable space for passengers departing from ENWIA, including optimizing and ensuring best use of the available infrastructure.

Status

In Progress

- **Optimizing passenger flow at ENWIA:** We are currently examining options to provide increased efficiency of passenger check-in counters at the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport.



GOAL

Community



Support safety, emergency management and community development in Yukon communities

Work with emergency service providers (such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Emergency Medical Services, Wildland Fire Management, and Emergency Measures Organization) to define and formalize the role of aerodromes in emergency management systems, and to provide an effective response during emergencies.

Status Complete

- **Supporting Old Crow Airport:** A fly-in/fly-out maintenance staffing model for the Old Crow Airport has been developed and implemented to maintain airport operations.
- **Recognizing Yukon First Nations language and culture:** In summer 2024, ENWIA unveiled an updated airport welcome sign that acknowledges the traditional territories of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation in Southern Tutchone, English, French, and German. This new signage is another step in ongoing work to strengthen relationships with Yukon First Nations governments by encouraging visitors to learn about their histories and cultures.

Status In Progress

- **Improving emergency management preparedness:** Highways and Public Works is prioritizing further development in the area of emergency management. Ongoing program and competency development is a focus for the Department, Division and Aviation Branch.





GOAL

Economics



Improve economic sustainability of the Yukon's public aviation system

Invest in critical aviation infrastructure to maintain the public aviation system and provide adequate access to air transportation for the travelling public, emergency service providers and other aviation system users based on their defined needs.

Status

Complete

- **Define aerodrome classification framework:** In spring 2024, an aviation system classification framework overview complete with associated service standards was presented to YAAC. Clear processes for service level change requests and assessments are included, ensuring the Government of Yukon has the tools to inform current and future investment in the Yukon's public aviation system.

Status

Nearing Completion

- **Implementing aerodrome service standards and prioritizing investment of available funding:** Over the course of the 2024 and 2025 fiscal years, the classification framework and supporting service levels will be further implemented. Prioritization of investment decisions in alignment with the framework began in the 2024 fiscal year.

Status

In Progress

- **Improving the ENWIA airfield:** Fall 2024 marks the halfway point for the reconstruction of the main runway at ENWIA. The runway reconstruction project is expected to be completed by fall 2025. This project includes replacement of the 32L runway approach lighting, installing new approach lighting for the 14R runway approach, and making other critical improvements at ENWIA to replace aging infrastructure and to bring the airport up to current standards.



GOAL

Passenger experience



Define the requirements & standards for the passenger & user experience within the Yukon's public aviation system

We will work with aviation stakeholders to establish service standards for the public aviation system that are based on defined requirements for stakeholder groups and consider our available financial and human resources.

Status

Complete

- **Reopening food services at ENWIA:** The Black Wolf Bistro opened at ENWIA in summer 2024. This new service is providing much anticipated food and beverages to passengers and community members visiting the airport terminal building. The venue has also provided a destination for aviation stakeholders, operators and service providers to gather as they enjoy food and beverages with a view of the airfield and surrounding vistas. Starting soon, the Black Wolf Bistro will also have food and beverage options available in the boarding lounge in a refrigerated vending machine restocked daily.
- **Establishing a curbside assistance program at ENWIA:** The Government of Yukon developed and launched a curbside assistance program to support travellers who require mobility assistance when they travel through the ENWIA terminal building. This program meets Canadian Transportation Association standards and is a step forward in supporting all travellers as they use the Yukon's public aviation system..
- **Updating fixtures and finishes:** Coinciding with the opening of the Black Wolf Bistro at ENWIA, updates have been made to fixtures and finishes in the upper floor of the air terminal building to help make our public spaces feel more modern, airy and welcoming. Further updates are currently in the planning phase.
- **Installation of public Wi-Fi at the Dawson City Airport:** Wireless public internet access has been installed to help Yukoners stay informed and in touch when travelling to and from the Dawson City Airport.

Status

Nearing Completion

- **Increasing the diversion of recyclables and decreasing waste:** Our passengers care about the environment, and in 2024, ENWIA implemented a test program to improve the recovery of recyclables and reduce the amount of waste going to the City of Whitehorse landfill from our air terminal building. The results of this test will inform programming moving forward, including other airports and aerodromes.

Yukon

