

Improvements at Lee's Summit Municipal Airport to Serve Regional Growth

A new runway extension and acquisition of a hangar complex signal a brand new chapter in the delivery of aviation services at the Lee's Summit Municipal Airport.

“We started these projects in 1999, and as is the case with any airport project, we had to work through many environmental, public comment and planning processes,” said Airport Manager John Ohrazda. “Now completed, these improvements open the door to an exciting new customer base and serve as a catalyst for airport growth while providing another option for transportation and accessibility. Our local Chamber and Industrial Committee are key supporters of the airport as the improved business aviation amenities are sure to boost economic development and redevelopment activity in Lee's Summit.”

Designed to accommodate heavier aircraft, the north/south runway extension to 5,501 feet included thickening of the runway surface and widening to 100 feet, adding greater capacity to the airport’s two-runway layout. “About 70 percent of our operations are business related,” Ohrazda said. “The longer runway allows greater capabilities for corporate aircraft users to take off and land at the airport. Within three days of opening runway 18/36 we saw an increase in the number of operations and size of aircraft using the airport.”

The acquisition of Hangar 1, a 40,000 square-foot heated hangar, adds additional space to the airport’s FBO, which is operated by the City of Lee’s Summit. “Hangar 1 allows the airport to better accommodate business aviation operators,” said Ohrazda. “Amenities such as a pilot’s lounge, sleep room, concierge services, meeting rooms and office space, make it attractive to

both the business and leisure traveler.”

Ohrazda also expects the new upgrades to increase tourism-related operations. The airport is located 16 miles southeast of the Kansas City metro and 15 miles from the Truman Sports Complex, home of the Kansas City Royals and Kansas City Chiefs sports teams.

“Our close proximity to Kansas City attractions and surrounding cities position the Lee’s Summit Municipal Airport to be the new gateway to the Kansas City region,” said Ohrazda. “Kansas City is also home to some of the best barbecue establishments in the nation. Aviation users will eat well when visiting KLXT!”