

Grand Canyon National Airport runway rehabilitation project



The Grand Canyon National Park Airport, located at Tusayan, seven miles from the South Rim and two miles from the Park entrance, serves the number one tourist site in the state and is Arizona's only state-owned airport.

The current airport is built on the site of the first Grand Canyon Airport, which was built in 1925. The current airport opened in October 1965, and the airport terminal was completed and dedicated on October 20, 1967.

Grand Canyon National Park Airport completed a new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Facility (ARFF) Maintenance Building in 2010. This newer building, designed by LEA Architects LLC, has received an Advanced Level Plus Sustainable Building Award from the Coconino County Sustainable Building Program.

The airport has one runway, 3/21, 9,000 feet by 150 feet and capable of supporting aircraft with a weight-bearing capacity of a single-wheel 88.0, double-wheel 108.0 and double-tandem 160.0.

The airport has aircraft crash and rescue services available during control tower operating hours: 0600 to 2000 June 1 through September 30, and 0700 to 1900 October 1 through May 31. These services are also available at other times when prior arrangements are made.

RUNWAY REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Grand Canyon National Airport is gearing up for a significant runway rehabilitation project, designed to improve safety and operational efficiency for all users. Current runway surfaces have deteriorated over time due to regular use and exposure to environmental conditions. This project will rehabilitate the runway's infrastructure, extending its lifespan. Scheduled for summer 2025, this project will require closure of the runway to aircraft operations (excluding helicopters operating from the ramp) for about 35 days. This closure tentatively spans from July 14 through August 2025.

The airport's sole runway, designated as 3/21, will receive a 3-inch mill and overlay of 75 feet of the runway center section—the portion that is used the majority of the time by the airport's most critical aircraft. While addressing the distressed and aged pavement, the project will also include two other elements:

1. Reconstruction and rehabilitation of taxiway intersections P, A, and B to address a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) identified hotspot.
2. Updating of taxiway nomenclature (signage) for the entire airfield to current FAA standards.

This project will not alter the current runway length or width.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Asphalt projects in this region must be completed during warmer weather. Despite the inconvenience, the project team is diligently working to minimize the disruption. Full closure will be in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week in summer 2025. The project is currently under design and details are subject to change.

- ▼ **DESIGN & PLANNING:** in process
- ▼ **PROJECT BID PROCESS:** fall-winter 2024/25
- ▼ **PRE-CONSTRUCTION PREPARATIONS:** winter-spring 2025
- ▼ **CONSTRUCTION AND RUNWAY CLOSURE:** approximately 35 days, anticipated start July 14, 2025, through August 2025
- ▼ **TENTATIVE COMPLETION:** September 2025

PROJECT COST

The estimated construction cost is approximately \$15 million, to be funded by a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant, along with state matching funds.

If bids come in lower than expected, the project scope includes two alternates which can be added if budget allows:

- ▼ **ADD ALTERNATE ONE:** Apply a seal coat to the remaining 37.5-foot section on both sides of the runway centerline.
- ▼ **ADD ALTERNATE TWO:** Perform a three-inch mill and overlay on the remaining 37.5-foot section on both sides of the runway centerline. ■

