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NEWS RELEASE

Durango-La Plata County Airport Runway Repaving Complete

Durango, CO: Durango La-Plata County Airport (DRO) has completed its runway repaving on schedule, re-opening to aircraft traffic at 11:59 pm on Friday, September 16, 2022, following a 10-day closure period.

"We are extremely pleased to have completed this momentous project on schedule," said Aviation Director Tony Vicari. "This was a major undertaking for airport staff, our engineering team led by Dibble Engineering, and our contractor in Four Corners Materials. The team assembled to accomplish this time-sensitive project performed remarkably well, and we couldn't be more pleased with the high-quality product that will serve aircraft at DRO for years to come."

Runway 3/21 at DRO is a 9,201' x 150' asphalt surface that had not been substantially rehabilitated in over 15 years. During the ten-day closure, the runway's 1.38 million square foot surface was completely repaved. Work also included new runway paint markings, re-paved taxiway connector asphalt, and an all-new LED runway edge lighting system.

"Four Corners Materials delivered absolutely fantastic work on the runway paving while operating under a very tight timeline. We were extremely impressed with their entire team's speed, efficiency, and professionalism. Nearly two hundred people worked on this project day and night over the past ten days, and we're grateful for all their hard work," Vicari said. "The Dibble Engineering team also deserves immense credit for designing this project with such tight specifications and for providing first-class on-site engineering services on a 24/7 basis throughout the runway closure. The airport could not have delivered this project without these two key partners."

During the runway closure, airport staff completed several additional projects, including a seal coat and re-stripe of the main public parking lot, crack seal work in the credit card parking lot, terminal deep cleaning, water system repairs, and fiber optic upgrades.

"I would also like to thank the community for their patience while the runway was closed," Vicari said. "We are very cognizant that there is no good time to close the airport, but

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maintaining this critical infrastructure was a necessary project to ensure that the airport can continue to safely facilitate air traffic into and out of our community. We understand that not having DRO as a travel option over the last ten days created an inconvenience, and we're excited to begin welcoming travelers back through our airport."

Additional work to groove the new asphalt and apply permanent markings will occur in October, but this work will occur during planned night closures and will not affect scheduled airline flights.



About Durango-La Plata County Airport

Durango-La Plata County Airport (DRO) is the primary regional airport for Southwest Colorado, Northwest New Mexico, and the entire Four Corners region. DRO welcomed 397,000 total passengers in 2021 and contributes over \$290 million annually to the regional economy. DRO is served by two major U.S. airlines (American and United), offering year-round daily nonstop routes to Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW), Denver (DEN), and Phoenix (PHX).

DRO operates as an enterprise fund of the City of Durango and generates self-sustaining revenue from airport tenants and users in the form of airline rent and landing fees, terminal concessions, ground leases, and parking fees. The airport does not receive any local tax funding.

Learn more about the Durango-La Plata County Airport at [FlyDurango.com](https://www.flydurango.com). Follow us on social media at twitter.com/DROAirport and facebook.com/DROAirport

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