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Airport Project gains industry notice

BULLHEAD CITY, AZ – Work to extend the runway at Laughlin-Bullhead International Airport has earned the Tri-state's airport some recognition in an industry publication.

In early 2017, the airport completed a \$16.6 million runway extension project. The project lengthened the runway 1,000 feet to the south and strengthened the surface with a 3-inch asphalt overlay. A new taxiway was built, along with the installation of new LED runway lights and upgrade of runway signs with new electronics and sign panels.

Following the completion of these improvements, the airport's project was highlighted in the September edition of the Airport Improvement magazine. The industry publication focused somewhat on the short-time span in which a substantial amount of the work was conducted. The magazine reported on how crews worried about maintaining the project's most demanding portion of its schedule, a 15-day period in December, especially given a factor no one could control -- the weather. Paving can't happen when it's too cold outside.

The article called the December effort a "feat".

- Obliterating the existing striping;
- Grading shoulder areas;
- Installing an asphalt overlay on the original 7,500 feet of the runway;
- Performing full-depth paving of the extensions;
- Installing edge lighting along the full length of the runway and on the taxiway extension;
- Adding taxiway connectors;
- Restriping the runway and taxiway;
- Ensuring precision approach path indicators were in place and certified for use.

"We were thrilled to find out we would be showcased in the magazine, which is distributed nationally to airport industry professionals" said Jeremy Keating, airport director at Laughlin-Bullhead International Airport. "This was one of our largest projects in airport history, which was completed to improve safety. The project was finished without delays and under budget."

Keating pointed out that it was all achieved during a short airport closure of 15 days and some other evening shutdowns.

"There was little margin for error," he said during a recent interview about the job that McCormick Construction, the project's general contractor, and its subcontractors, had taken on.

Laughlin-Bullhead International Airport now hosts daily flight service to Phoenix Sky Harbor on American Airlines. Book a flight at AA.com. This began in February as the improvement work was winding down. The project was completed in March.