

## **2015 GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Over the last five years, and through the leadership of the airport manager and key local government officials, our winning airport has made significant and meaningful changes to both airside and landside environments in response to the changing role of the airport and the needs of its users.

Our airport's region has seen tremendous business growth in the oil and gas industry which has translated directly into increased activity airport. Fortunately, the airport through its Commissioner Court, local business leaders, the economic development corporation, and Chamber of Commerce has prepared itself for this growth by taking proactive measures to ensure the viability of the airport well into the future.

Three of the most important actions are:

1. The construction of a 120 x 130 corporate hangar;
2. A new airport development plan and Airport Layout Drawing; and
3. Acquisition of three key parcels of land to facilitate public partnership and private hangar development

These projects speak to the efforts the community continues to make to ensure viability of the airport and illustrates the importance placed on the airport with respect to current and future business development within the county.

It is important to note as well, the County has elected to maintain its third RW 11-29 using 100% local funding. This runway is important to

many local pilots which use it when the wind is blowing “like a mother” (because it never really stops).

Besides these locally funded projects, the County has partnered with TxDOT Aviation in its CIP program. CIP projects completed since 1999 include pavement rehabilitation to the runways, installation of PAPI 4 on RW 16-34 and RW 02-20, MIRL replacement for RW 16-34, parallel taxiway reconstruction and drainage improvements, HAT rehabilitation, and construction of a concrete fueling apron. These investments in the airport total more than \$3 million.

A significant runway safety improvement completed in 2012 involved the elimination of a non-standard lead-in taxiway to RW 02 by displacing the threshold, installing new RW lighting and remarking the runway to current design standards. A similar project is planned for RW 34 in the near future. Finally, it is noted the airport consistently uses TxDOT RAMP grants to maintain its airfield pavements and county owned facilities to maintain a safe and attractive facility.

Andrews County Judge Richard Dolenger deserves special recognition for his vigilant and persistent support of the airport over many years, while often facing stringent and contradictory opposition to its continued role in the community. He truly knows the value the airport has in serving the needs of the community and has been a constant force for meaningful and measured improvements at the airport.

It is our pleasure to recognize ANDREWS COUNTY AIRPORT as the 2015 General Aviation Airport of the Year.