

## **2015 MOST IMPROVED AIRPORT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Most Improved Airport for 2015 provides support for one of Texas' most important commodities – oil. Located in the center of one of the largest oil reserves in the Texas Panhandle, this airport serves as the transportation hub for numerous multinational oil and drilling companies. As the oil boom heightened, so did the demands placed on our winning airport. This airport has seen increased aircraft operations, as well as larger and heavier aircraft to handle the increased business demands.

In 2012, the Aviation Division partnered with this airport to expand and upgrade the airfield runway, taxiway and apron system to serve the increased aircraft operations. Aviation Planners worked with the airport sponsor to develop a multi-faceted project that increased the length of Runway 4-22 to over 5,000 feet, opening the airport to a wider variety of business aircraft. In addition, the project increased the runway's weight-bearing capacity to handle the larger aircraft.

The project also reconstructed, widened and lengthened the airport's cross-wind runway to provide a safe alternative approach to the airport when winds don't favor the primary runway.

What good is a high-capacity runway system without supporting taxiways and aprons? The project also included overlaying or reconstructing all the airport's taxiways, and reconstructing most of the parking apron and hangar access aprons. All the new pavements received a coal-tar slurry seal to provide protection from the elements and future oxidation.

Lastly, the project completely replaced the airport's lighting system with new LED runway edge lights, new lighted windcone, and a new lighting vault and equipment.

Construction was substantially complete in November 2014, resulting in an almost new airport. The project either reconstructed or rehabilitated almost the entire existing airfield pavement. With regular maintenance, our Most Improved General Aviation Airport for 2015 should be flying high for years to come.

It is my privilege, to award the **2015 MOST IMPROVED AIRPORT** honor to the **HEMPHILL COUNTY AIRPORT**.