

May 29, 2024

Dave Anderson
DMA ADO Bismarck Deputy Manager
Federal Aviation Administration
Dakota-Minnesota ADO, Bismarck Office
2301 University Drive, Building 23B
Bismarck, ND 58504

Dear Mr. Anderson,

In the last 7 years the Sturgis Municipal Airport has been growing and expanding. In 2017 we had approximately 43 based aircraft and 17 Hangars. In 2024 we have reached 103 based aircraft, 35 hangars with more being constructed right now, and 6 T-hangars.

The increase in based aircraft will include two Cessna 525 jets, a King Air and a Turbine Duke. We also now have 5 CFIs training an average of 15 students. This, along with all our based aircraft, has increased our daily operations to an average of 75 to 100 take-offs and landings per day. This growth drastically increases the chance for a runway incursion.

As you know the Sturgis Municipal Airport does not currently have a parallel taxiway for runway 29. This causes a safety issue with planes needing to back taxi on the primary runway while there are several planes in the pattern and on GPS approaches. Construction of a parallel taxiway at Sturgis Municipal Airport is programmed in our Capital Improvement Plan to be constructed in 2025/2026.

However, given the growth both past and expected in our operations, I am asking the Federal Aviation Administration to help move this project forward and make it a priority in the interest of safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dave Smith



Director of Planning & Permitting

CC:

Jeremy McLeod, DMA ADO Program Manager

Jack Dokken, SDDOT Program Manager

Jon Becker, SDDOT Aeronautics Planning Engineer



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