

Letters

THIS WEEK IN WORTHINGTON 3/27/03

Flight Watch backs runway extension

To the editor:

We support the proposed North Runway extension at OSU Airport.

We participated in the 1991 Airport Master Plan process, as did Dave Elder and the City of Worthington. That plan was approved, and many positive comments were received.

The benefits include:

1. Less noise. The proposed runway extension, with a precision Instrument Landing System (ILS) to the East of the Airport, will keep the landing aircraft higher and in a much quieter flight mode. Due to siting considerations, it was not possible to put the the ILS to the East on the South runway.

2. Safety. The FFA recommended runway length is 6,500 feet for the type of aircraft that Worthington Industries, Wendy's, Advanced Drainage, Jack Nicholas and other leading businesses in central Ohio fly. It is not possible to lengthen the south runway to any extent, and it is not even possible to put the full 6500 feet on the north side.

3. Space. Due to the runway protection areas at the ends of the crosswind runways there is not much building area left on the south side for hangers, so the plan is to eventually move the locally based aircraft to the North side, with access from Rt. 161.

4. Business attitude. Corporate Aviation brings in a lot of business to central Ohio. We are 40 minutes by air to Chicago, and 45 minutes to the New York area. Organizations that utilize general aviation aircraft in filling their travel needs have a very positive attitude about their business and customers.

5. Always open. Keeps the airport open when runway maintenance or snow removal is required. If you have flown up from Dallas, for example, you would like to be able to land where your contacts are expecting to pick you up.

Alan Harding
president, Columbus Flight Watch

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