

PAVING AVIATION

WILLOW RUN TAXIWAY A PHASE 4

801 WILLOW RUN AIRPORT, YPSILANTI, MI

Concrete Contractor: Ajax Paving Industries, Inc.
Project Owner: Wayne County Airport Authority
Other: Jacobsen Daniels Associates, LLC

The construction of Willow Run Taxiway A represented the final phase of a four-phase capital improvement program designed to enhance airfield capacity and operational efficiency at Willow Run Airport (YIP), Southeast Michigan's second-largest airport. This multi-year effort culminated in the construction of a full-length, parallel hard-surface 75-foot-wide taxiway to Runway 5R/23L, providing critical redundancy, improved aircraft circulation, and enhanced safety for both airside operations and ground movements.

Willow Run Airport plays a vital regional role, supporting passenger travel, large-scale cargo and freight operations, aviation training academies, and U.S. Coast Guard recertification activities. The Taxiway A project directly supports these diverse functions by reducing runway occupancy times, improving operational reliability, and accommodating a wide range of aircraft types.

The scope of work for this phase was substantial and complex. The project included more than 37,000 square yards of 15-inch concrete pavement constructed at a 37.5-foot width, along with comprehensive electrical and communications upgrades to meet current FAA standards. In addition, the work required installation of approximately 1,300 linear feet of 120-inch-diameter deep concrete storm sewer to improve airfield drainage, as well as over 70,000 cubic yards of earthwork to achieve final grades and long-term pavement stability.

The completed concrete pavement exceeded all applicable FAA specifications for air content, thickness, smoothness, and strength. Notably, the final pavement ride quality met smoothness requirements without the need for any corrective grinding. As a result, the Taxiway A project delivers a durable, high-performance airfield asset that will serve the operational needs of Willow Run Airport safely and efficiently for decades to come.

