Paine Field celebrates runway 16L-34R reopening

Pilots flying in to or departing from Paine Field now have more runway options. On Thursday, Sept. 12, airport and county officials will formally reopen runway 16L-34R for general aviation traffic. Local officials will celebrate with a ribbon-cutting ceremony from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. near the airport’s east ramp.

The runway has been closed since late May for paving and safety upgrades. Updated LED lighting, navigational aids, signs and markings will help enhance pilots’ situational awareness. The improvements also give pilots a more convenient exit taxiway configuration and allow for safer vehicle movement on the runway perimeter road.

“Paine Field has a reputation for being a reliable, safe airport for commercial and general aviation,” said Dave Waggoner, Paine Field Airport director. “These upgrades will help improve pilot experience at the airport and allow the runway to continue safely serving air traffic well into the future.”

Runway 16L-34R serves half the flight activity at Paine Field. Of the 650 aircraft based at Paine Field, 500 are located near the central and east ramps. Runway 16L-34R sits between the two ramps and features full-length parallel taxiways on each side, making it easy for aircraft to access.

The runway was originally built in the 1980s to allow air traffic controllers to better and more efficiently manage air traffic at Paine Field. Not only does it avoid intersecting traffic on the airport’s main runway, 16L-34R is also situated so that it frequently lines up with prevailing winds.

Contractor IMCO Construction of Bellingham completed the paving and upgrade work; Reid Middleton Inc. of Everett were consulting engineers.

For more information about Paine Field and the recent runway improvement project, contact Dave Waggoner at 425-388-5100. Learn more about Paine Field and local tourist opportunities online at www.painefield.com.

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