



MEDIA RELEASE

New Navigation Study To Increase Safety and Weather Reliability for Landings at West Kootenay Regional Airport

August 14, 2017

Castlegar – Mayor Chernoff, City Council and representatives from the Regional District of Central Kootenay, area municipal councils and local business representatives met today to receive a report that outline possible improvements to the regional airport’s landing and departure navigation system. Mayor Chernoff said “We are very excited to hear Jeppesen Aviation – one of the largest aeronautical navigation systems companies in the world – state that a new proposed navigation system could be successfully applied to greatly increase the safety and landing reliability at the West Kootenay Regional Airport in all weather conditions.”

Mayor Chernoff noted that “The study is great news for air travelers in and out of the West Kootenays. It is critical for the region’s economic growth, that we continue to improve the West Kootenay Regional Airport because it is central to the region. That is why we are excited to hear the results of today’s study from senior Jeppesen Aviation representatives. Jeppesen Aviation has solved similar issues to those encountered at the West Kootenay Regional Airport. The year-long study at the West Kootenay Regional Airport has identified new approach and departure procedures, that, if fully designed and approved will dramatically improve our airport’s ability to operate when the weather becomes challenging in the winter.”

The Jeppesen Aviation analysis has identified a navigational design for both landings and departures that will significantly reduce the current required height limitations that will, in turn, significantly increase the airport’s availability all year round. The analyzed design will require specific permissions designed for the West Kootenay Regional Airport. Mayor Chernoff stated that “The proposed design will need specific approvals from Transport Canada for design features that, while not yet in practice in Canada, have all been previously approved in the United States.”

The Jeppesen study completes Phase 1 of the three phase project. Phase Two will be to meet with the federal regulatory agencies and the national airlines to discuss their needs for implementation. Phase Three will be implementation of the advanced navigation system.

City staff will be meeting with the national regulatory agencies within the next month to initiate an approval/review/design process for the new navigation system as identified by Jeppesen Aviation.

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