



**Municipal Airport
Public Services Area**

CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

301 E. Huron Street, P.O. Box 8647
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-88647
Phone (734) 994-2841 • Fax (734) 997-1133
<http://www.a2gov.org>

October 1, 2012

Security Changes at the Ann Arbor Municipal Airport

The Ann Arbor Municipal Airport has experienced three incursions in the last four months. These vehicle/pedestrian deviations (VPD) are a result of security and education issues at the airport that have compromised safety for our aircraft and pilots. There have been 25 VPD's this year in the entire FAA Great Lakes Region, which encompasses 70 towered airports. ARB has 3 of these 25 VPD's. Two of these incidents resulted in private vehicles (one a disoriented elderly driver and the other a Jimmy Johns delivery vehicle) leaving the NW T hangar area via taxiways Charlie and Alpha before exiting the airport from the NE T hangar area. The third incident resulted from an employee of a private contractor, doing crack sealing at the airport, running across runway 6/24.

This compromise in security has resulted in incidents that create an aviation environment that is less safe than it should be. This problem is exacerbated by automatic gates (NW T's) that don't operate consistently, manual gates (NE T's) that are left open, gate codes that everyone (even non-airport users) know, airport users not ensuring gates close behind them, inadequate signage and a generally poor focus on airport security. This situation must change. With the assistance of MDOT-Aeronautics and the FAA, efforts are already underway to improve this.

Immediate Changes

- Gate codes at all three automatic gates will be changed effective October 15, 2012 (see enclosed notice)
- Access on Airport Drive from State Road has been modified with signage and barricades to discourage non-airport users from utilizing this access road. Many people think this is a public street which increases traffic and the likelihood of an incursion.
- Automatic gates will be inspected for operating problems and closed unless the airport is comfortable they are operating appropriately.
- A local runway safety action team meeting is being scheduled for November 14th. A FAASTeam meeting is being scheduled for November 13th. All airport users are encouraged to attend one or both sessions.

- A new airport maintenance phone line has been established to report any gate problems or maintenance items in general. Call 734.994.2841 and press 4 for the airport maintenance voicemail box that is checked daily.

Future Changes

- Two automatic gates will be installed on Airport Drive, one just east of Aviation Center and one near the Echo row hangars, to eliminate through traffic on Airport Drive to State Road. The existing manual gates and fencing will be removed.
- Fencing in the NE T hangar area will be increased from 4' to 8' in height.
- The three existing automatic gates (two in the NW T's and one at State Road) will be replaced with new gates and operators.
- Airport rules and regulations for tenants and commercial operators at the airport will be updated.
- Educational efforts on security in general, and gate security in particular, will be initiated.
- Additional signage delineating movement/non-movement areas will be installed.

In general, security at ARB has been lax. That has to change and the airport management will lead that change. We will invest in physical improvements to improve security and balance that whenever possible with user convenience. We will try to educate and improve opportunities for users to operate in a safe manner. But we also need the tenants and other users of the airport to improve their behavior and the culture of safety. It is easy to look at the VPD's that occurred and say these weren't tenant faults. Someone likely gave the Jimmy Johns driver the gate code. Someone has opened the manual gates and not closed them. Have you regularly stopped after passing through the gate to ensure it closed behind you? Have you allowed another vehicle to tailgate you through the gate? Have you called the airport offices to report that the gate is not functioning? Have you stopped or offered assistance to someone who doesn't appear that they should be in the secure area?

As a pilot, the last thing you want to see is a minivan turning onto 6/24 as you land. It is all of our responsibility to improve the culture of security at ARB and we will all benefit from that security with a safer aviation environment. Though the additional security can be a hassle, it is well worth the effort. Additional updates and reminders will be included on the notice we include on the back of your monthly bill. If you have any questions, please contact me at mjkulhanek@a2gov.org or at 734.994.9124. Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,

Matthew J Kulhanek
Airport Manager