

FOR RELEASE
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Functional planning to begin on Dawson airport redevelopment

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon will begin functional planning for the redevelopment of the Dawson airport this year. Subject to legislative approval, funds will be allocated in the 2016/17 budget for a plan that will determine how government should invest in improvements at the airport.

"We have heard from the business community that there is a strong case to be made for making major improvements to the Dawson airport," Minister of Highways and Public Works Scott Kent said. "This is an important project for the community of Dawson and for north Yukon. As a staging ground for mineral development and exploration opportunities, it will benefit the resource sector and therefore all Yukoners."

The plan will set the Yukon government's long-term goals and objectives for the airport, which will include paving the runway. With public safety a main priority, it will also look at options for relocating and rebuilding the terminal.

The plan will provide an estimate of the costs involved, consider existing geotechnical knowledge with respect to the permafrost that underlies that runway, and take into account Transport Canada's recommendations regarding the safety of the current runway approach.

"As the gateway to the Klondike and to northern Yukon, the Dawson airport plays a crucial role in the territory's tourism industry," Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor said. "Improvements will ensure that Dawson continues to be an accessible and attractive travel destination for visitors and Yukoners throughout the year."

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