

Clover Field Set to Embark on Age of Change

By Ryan Anderson
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Change is on the horizon for Clover Field Airport.

While the changes will not involve Boeing 747s buzzing overhead, monumental changes will occur nonetheless.

“We are going to stay the same type of airport, we are just going to have more activity,” said Andy Rivera, airport manager. “We want to remain a niche airport. We don’t want to compete for passenger traffic.”

In keeping with the desire to remain a “niche” airport, Clover Field is planning to undergo several modifications to better serve the general aviation community.

Among the projected upgrades is resurfacing Runway 14R-32PL, building a taxiway and doubling the size of the ramp apron area. The airport also plans to construct 50 hangers for twin and single engine planes.

“As fast as we can build them (hangers) they should be occupied,” Rivera said.

According to Rivera, there are around 60 people on a waiting list for hanger space.

Additionally, plans call for the current main vehicle entrance to the airport to be converted exclusively to an airplane taxiway with hangers on both sides of the road.

To accomplish this change Rivera stated that the airport will be negotiating with landowners on both ends of the runway to purchase their land. The land purchase is necessary to increase the safety buffer for planes landing and taking off. Trees on the land would be chopped down to allow a clearer approach to the runway. Rivera said the negotiations with landowners would probably begin in March.

Upgrades and renovations aren’t limited to the existing airport grounds; plans are also in the works to develop a 70-acre tract of land across Clear Creek into an industrial air park within the next 5-10 years.

The current grass runway is also slated to be shut down to make room for a commercial aviation area and 30 additional helicopter landing pads. The closing of the grass runway will leave the airport with two active runways instead of the four that it once had.

Federal grant money, as well as investment from property owners, will take care of much of the improvements, according to Rivera.

“We have a really good private/public partnership,” Rivera said. “That should allow us to increase the amount of traffic we serve here.”