

**August 15, 2011**

**News Release**

*For Immediate Release*

**Airport Reopens Ahead of Schedule**

The Springfield-Branson National Airport reopened for normal operations at 10:00 Monday morning, one hour ahead of the scheduled 11:00 opening.

"I want to thank the contractor and all involved for their hard work in meeting the aggressive construction schedule," says Brian Weiler, the airport's new director of aviation. About 90 construction workers, in alternating shifts, worked around-the-clock over the weekend to put down 6,000 square yards of new concrete pavement. The area was at the intersection of the two runways and could not have been done with the airport open.

"It's never a good time to close the airport and we are sorry for any inconvenience this caused. Safety is our first priority and we are glad to have this phase of the runway resurfacing project successfully behind us," says Weiler.

When the full project is complete this fall, all runways and taxiways at the airport will be in excellent condition and no future shutdowns are planned.

For more information, contact: Kent Boyd, Public Information and Marketing, Springfield-Branson National Airport, 417.868.0500, 2300 North Airport Blvd., Suite 100, Springfield, Missouri 65802