

FAQ

Alternative Flight Paths – Work on the North Runway

1. Why is this work required?

To ensure aviation safety, runways must be without any defect, you can't have potholes on a runway. Maintenance work is therefore frequently required in order to maintain our facilities to safety and reliability standards.

In this case, the work consists of completely redoing the runway's top layer. The project is divided in 4 phases, and we are now starting the third phase. Technically, we should have completed the work in 2023.

Major work on the north runway will be completed for about twenty years.

2. What is the work exactly?

The rehabilitation of the north runway consists of the construction of new concrete slabs on the central portion of the runway as well as electrical work. For the taxiways, the existing surface will be excavated, the drainage system constructed and then, the taxiways are backfilled with a new foundation and asphalt surface.

3. Why did you not do this work in 2020 and 2021 when there were almost no flights?

The rehabilitation of the north runway could not be completed in 2020 and 2021 because of the budgetary restrictions following the drastic reduction of air activities.

4. Why not work at night?

The longest shifts possible are done to reduce the length of the work. However, it is not possible to reopen the runway once the work has started.

5. Why do you have to close the runway for such a long period?

We want to keep runway closures to a minimum and every effort is made to close the runway for the shortest period possible.

This year, the north runway will be closed from March 14 to the end of June. It will be operational in July, August and September. A second runway closure is then scheduled from October 11 to November 7.

6. It is not the first time that you are doing work that requires the closure of a runway for a few months. Why do you have to develop new flight paths this time even though the number of flights is still reduced?

The last work that required a long runway closure dates back to more or less 10 years.

When the work was done for the rehabilitation of both ends of the north runway, the runway remained operational with a reduced length.

In 2022, the north runway will be closed from March 14 to the end of June and from October 11 to November 7.

In order to limit the spread of peak hours over a longer period, NAV Canada will use some alternative headings for departures to reduce the length of the peak period and delays. Alternative flight paths for departures will be used mainly by small jets and propeller aircraft, when the north runway is closed.

The use of the alternative flight paths will be minimized, they will be used during peak periods, in the morning (approximately between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m.), in the early afternoon (approximately 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.) and at the end of afternoon-early evening (approximately 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.).

To reduce the use of alternative flight paths, we have restricted general aviation flights, they will not be able to land or take off during peak periods.

7. What are the forecasts for air traffic this summer?

On average, between 175 and 200 departures are planned in the first phase of the work (compared to an average of 300 departures in 2019).

Approximately 70% of departures are jets.

We estimate that a third of jet departures will use an alternative flight path, which represents between 40 and 50 small jets per day.

8. How will air traffic be distributed once the rehabilitation of the runway is completed?

In the Action Plan, it is planned to distribute air traffic on both parallel runways, once the rehabilitation project is completed (scheduled in 2023). Consultations will be held at that time.

9. Will the work be finished once and for all?

There will always be work to be done. To ensure air safety, airport infrastructures need to always be in perfect condition and must be in compliance to Transport Canada requirements. However, major work on the north runway will be completed for about 20 years.

10. Will there be major work on the other runways in the upcoming years?

In 2023, the rehabilitation on the north runway will be completed (mid-March to end of June) followed by the rehabilitation of the south runway (2024 and more).

11. Will alternative flight paths be used at night?

No, they will be used mainly in peak periods in daytime and early evening.

12. What will be the departure procedure for jets using alternative flight paths?

Pilots will generally reach approximately 400 feet before directing the aircraft towards the provided heading. Once on the heading, the aircraft will continue climbing until 3,000 feet before continuing its route.

13. At what altitude will jets on the alternative flight path turn after take off?

After 400 feet (almost immediately after take off).

14. Why not have the planes climb faster following take-off?

This depends a lot on the performance of the aircraft. The rate of climb depends on many factors, including the performance characteristics of each aircraft, aircraft weight, headwinds and weather conditions. Therefore, it is not possible to expect all aircraft to climb at the same rate or at a higher rate.

15. Is it possible that the alternative flight paths continue to be used after the work?

No, it's a procedure put in place during the runway's closure.

16. Why did you not have a consultation in this case?

A consultation is not required when it's a temporary measure for a definite period because of work.

17. Why not spread flights during the day and avoid the need to use of alternative flight paths?

For air carriers, flight schedules are set-up according to various criteria, making it difficult to modify schedules without losing a large number of passengers and ensuring the economic viability of flights.

18. Will you evaluate noise levels generated by the alternative flight paths?

Yes, we will use the mobile noise monitoring station in addition to the existing noise monitoring stations. We invite you to consult [WebTrak](#) that displays noise levels.

19. How to follow the evolution of the work?

The section Information Meetings and Update on the Work of the website will post updates on the work.