

Two villages to get airport improvements in 1997

by *Tundra Times* Staff

The Kasigluk and Shungnak Airports are scheduled for major remodeling starting in the summer of 1997.

Kasigluk, a village of 440 residents on the Kuskokwim River will see the length of their runway extended from 1,900 feet to 3,000 feet. Shungnak, with a population of about 225 on the Kobuk River will have their airport extended by 600 feet for a total length of 4,000 feet.

The cost of improvements are estimated at \$3 million each, to be paid for with Federal Aviation Administration funds.

"Right-of-way issues which delayed this project for four years have now been resolved and the department plans to advertise the project this fall," said Joe Perkins, Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facili-

ties in a press release about Kasigluk Airport.

The projects, besides lengthening the runways, will include construction of a snow removal equipment buildings and access roads, expand the current aircraft parking aprons, reconstruct the taxiways and install runway lighting at Kasigluk.

The lengthened runway at Kasigluk will accommodate light twin-engined aircraft, small cargo planes and medivac aircraft, according to Steve Van Horn with the DOT&PF Aviation Design.

The lengthening of the runway in Kasigluk will bring the airport up to standard village length of 3,000 to 3,200 feet, according to Van Horn.

It is part of an ongoing project to upgrade all the village runways in Alaska as the monies become available from the FAA. The runways were originally built in the 1960's and 1970's on a tight budget, according to Van Horn.