

Air Strip

32 Airports Included In Plan

Thirty-two airports in Alaska are included in a proposed five-year nationwide plan that would bring an estimated \$160 million in improvements to 127 commuter airports throughout the U.S.

The announcement was made by the Federal Aviation Administration at the agency's second annual commuter airline symposium held recently in Arlington, Virginia.

The FAA pointed out that a portion of the program, which would begin in fiscal year 1982 (Oct. 1, 1981 to September 30, 1982) is predicated on enactment of legislation to replace the Airport and Airway Development Act.

The Alaskan airports that would benefit are: Buck-

land, Chevak, Circle City, Deering, Elim, Goodnews Bay, Haines, Holy Cross, Hoona, Kalskag, Kaltag, Karluk, Kiana, Kipnuk, Kivalina, Klawock, Koyukuk, Marshall, Mountain Village, New Stuyahok, Noorvik, Nulato, Pilot Station, Point Hope, Port Lions, Russian Mission,

Selawik, Shugnak, Skagway, Stebbins, Tanacross, and Teller.

Included among improvements that would be carried out under the nationwide program are precision approach aids such as instrument landing systems or all-weather microwave landing systems, and other landing aids including safety improvements, such as runway and taxiway extensions, also are included in the program. Specifically what improvements Alaskan airports would get has not, as yet, been determined.

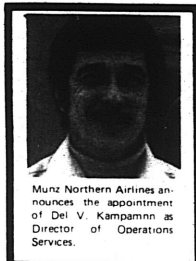
The proposed five-year program for improved facilities follows an FAA analysis, begun early in 1980, of the existing equipment at airports which serve com-

muters or airports that have been designated as providing essential service to small communities, such as those in Alaska. Those designations, made by the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), were required by the Airline Deregulation Act to ensure continued air service to small communities abandoned by the large scheduled air carriers.

When the proposed five-year program is completed, FAA estimates that more

than 94 percent of commuter airline passengers and 99.6 of all commercial airline passengers would be served by airports with precision approach equipment.

To qualify for that equipment, an airport would have to log 2,500 or more scheduled passenger boardings per year. Separate qualification criteria, however, have been proposed for Alaska because of this State's unique air transportation needs.



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