



## Runway 27 Safety Area Improvements Project Fact Sheet

### Project Description:

The goal of this project is to enhance safety for aircraft, passengers, and crew during emergency situations by improving the Runway Safety Area (RSA) at the end of Runway 27, in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) design standards. This is a required FAA safety project and does **not** extend the runway or change its operational capacity.

The project includes the installation of an Engineered Material Arresting System (EMAS), a safety system composed of lightweight, crushable concrete blocks designed to safely slow an aircraft in the event of an overrun. The EMAS will be installed on a pile-supported deck and is a FAA-approved method for achieving safety standards.

Currently, the RSA at Runway 27 measures 150 feet in length and 500 feet in width. The FAA has approved a new RSA configuration that will be 306 feet wide and extend approximately 650 feet from the Runway 27 threshold. Of this, 450 feet will extend over water via a pile-supported concrete deck. This design meets FAA safety objectives while minimizing environmental impacts.

---

### Project Timeline:

Massport will implement a full 24/7 closure of Runway 9/27 for 75 days starting September 2, 2025, to install the EMAS at the Runway 27 approach end. Preliminary enabling work will occur beforehand, contingent on runway availability based on wind, weather, and operational needs. Noise-producing work hours:

- Monday–Friday: 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM

The project will span two construction seasons:

- Year 1: 75-day closure beginning after September 2, 2025
- Year 2: 75-day closure beginning after July 1, 2026

---

### Project Impacts:

Runway 27 usage during September–November 2024 was as follows:

- September 2024: 1,713 arrivals (10.7%) / 1,254 departures (7.8%)
- October 2024: 3,999 arrivals (24.1%) / 2,654 departures (16%)
- November 2024: 4,996 arrivals (33.3%) / 3,755 departures (25.1%)

During the closure, aircraft overflight patterns will change. The Point Shirley neighborhood in Winthrop, due to its proximity to Runway 27, will experience a reduction in overflights. Other communities may notice changes in flight paths depending on FAA operational decisions, which are primarily influenced by wind and weather conditions.