

National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

March 12, 2014

Airport Factual Report

A. <u>Event</u>

Location:	Macon, Georgia		
Date:	September 18, 2012		
Aircraft:	Beech 400		
Registration:	N428JD		
Operator:	Private		
NTSB Number:	ERA12FA567		

B. <u>SUMMARY</u>

On September 18, 2012 about 1003 Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), a Beech 400, N428JD, was substantially damaged when it overran runway 28 during landing at Macon Downtown Airport (MAC), Macon Georgia. The airplane had departed from Charleston Air Force Base/International Airport (CHS), Charleston, South Carolina about 0930. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and an instrument flight rules (IFR) flight plan had been filed. Both Airline Transport Pilots (ATP) and one passenger sustained minor injuries. The airplane was owned by Dewberry, LLC and operated by The Aviation Department. The corporate flight was conducted under the provisions of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 91.

C. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

Macon Downtown Airport (MAC) was located about 3 miles southeast of the city of Macon at an elevation of 437 feet above mean sea level. The airport had two runways designated as 10/28 and 15/33, as shown in photo 1. MAC was a federally funded airport and was obligated, as when a project is funded by a Federal Airport Improvement Program grant agreement, to meet

all specific standards for airport geometric and design criteria as designated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). However, runway 10/28 rehabilitation project used federal funding only for the runway lighting rehabilitation segment. The runway paving segment was funded with state and local funding.

Runway 10/28, was originally 4694-feet-long and 150-feet-wide; however, following the rehabilitation project the usable runway width was reduced to 100 feet.¹ It was equipped with a 4-light precision approach path indicator (PAPI) at the approach ends. The PAPI was located on the right side of the runway for an approach to runway 10 and to the left side of the runway for an approach to runway shad non-precision markings that were listed in "good condition" at the time of the accident. Runway 10/28 was not subject to requirements of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 139.² Runway 10 was equipped with a localizer that had a distance measuring equipment (LOC/DME) instrument approach. Runway 28 was equipped with an RNAV(GPS) instrument approach. The airport also was served by two VOR approaches; one approach was titled VOR/DME-B and the other was VOR-A. No other approaches were published for the airport at the time of the accident.

Runway 15/33, was 2614-feet-long and 75-feet-wide. It had no approach lights and the non-precision markings and pavement condition were listed in "fair condition."

¹ According to pavement resurfacing documentation the width was narrowed to 100 feet during pavement resurfacing in 2009.

² Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 139 established minimum standards for airports that conduct U.S. air carrier operations. These standards include runway and runway safety area dimensions, airport lighting and markings, airport signage, and emergency response capabilities.



Photo 1: Google Earth Picture of MAC

In 2009, the resurfacing of runway 10/28 was accomplished.³ After resurfacing the runway, it was comprised of the existing subgrade, the existing asphalt pavement approximately 4 inches in thickness, a 2 inch thick recycled asphaltic concrete with 12.5 millimeter "Superpave", and the top coat was a single surface treatment including bituminous tack coat and #7 stone. The resurfacing plan also included removal of 25 feet of pavement on each side of the runway surface, which reduced the width of runway 10/28 to 100-feet.

In June 2011, the airport was inspected by a representative from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, under contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation. In a letter dated July 29, 2011, some obstructions and violations were noted. Below is an excerpted list of those affecting runway 10/28:⁴

- Runway 10 Meets minimum state licensing requirements, but fails to meet federal requirements for a 34:1 obstruction-free non-precision approach. Trees 415' from the threshold and 215' left of the centerline provide only a 15:1 approach slope.
- Runway 28 Meets minimum state licensing requirements but fails to meet federal requirements for a 34:1 obstruction-free non-precision approach surface. Trees 510' from

³ For engineering reports for the resurfacing project reference Appendix A "2009 Resurfacing" attached to this report

⁴ For the entire letter of the inspection reference Appendix B "2011 Inspection Letter" attached to this report

the threshold and 200' left of the extended runway centerline provide only a 14:1 approach slope.

Primary Surface Violations – The primary Surface for runway 10/28 is an imaginary surface longitudinally centered on the runway and is 500 feet wide, extending 200 feet off each end. The elevation of any point on the primary surface should be the same elevation as the nearest point on the runway centerline and should be free of any obstructions. Trees and brush are located within this area on the north side of Runway 10 approximately 193' left of the centerline near the approach and along the bank. In addition, there are trees and brush located on the south side of Runway 29 approximately 250' from the centerline near the approach and along the bank. These areas should be cleared to provide a clear areas 250 feet each side of the runway centerline to 200 feet of each runway end.

According to the accident pilots, shortly after activating the runway lights, the PAPI lights ceased operation and were no longer illuminated. During the accident sequence, after touchdown and brake application, the airplane began to hydroplane. Photographs provided by the operator taken a few hours after the accident and immediately following another rain shower revealed ponding of water on the runway, as shown in photograph 2.



Photo 2: Ponding Following a Rain shower Looking West on Runway 28 (Courtesy of the Operator)

On January 11, 2013, a Vehicle Performance Engineer from the National Transportation Safety Board conducted a survey of runway 10/28. Coarsely sampled pavement macrotexture and transverse slope measurements were accomplished at 500-foot longitudinal increments, yielding 10 stations of sampling along the runway length. The samples were evaluated by the FAA Southern Region, Airports Division, and compared against the FAA Advisory Circular 150/5300-13A, which required transverse grades of 1.0% to 2.0% for all runway design codes of B-II. Only one of the ten stations met the above requirement, and the samples revealed an average cross slope of 0.7%. The findings were sent to the Georgia Department of Transportation and a formal engineering report of the "nonstandard runway condition" was recommended.⁵

On February 25, 2013, runway laser scan data was collected by a private company commissioned by the airport authority. Noted from the survey was that the contour for runway 10/28 had no crown section, most of the transverse grades on the 100-foot-wide runway sloped in one direction, and several areas indicated little to no slope. It was further noted in the FAA advisory circular standards that transverse slopes should be adequate to prevent the accumulation of water on the surface. Water will pond in flat areas and in some areas with transverse grades of less than 1.0%.⁶

On September 20, 2012, as a result of the accident, a notice to airmen (NOTAM) was issued that the PAPI lights were not operational. Subsequent investigation of the lights revealed a blown circuit breaker. Four days following the accident the circuit breaker was repaired and the PAPI lights were considered operational.

The 5010 Master Record for MAC was updated to reflect a note stating "Potential for standing water on runway 10/28 during and after heavy rain events." This note will be included in the May 2014 publication cycle.

An airport project, at the time of this writing, was underway to remark or move the threshold for 10/28 to allow for additional runway safety area of 300 feet at both ends of runway 10/28.

At the time of this writing, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has requested additional survey data from the city of Macon and Bibb county in order to assess the existing condition relative to transverse grades.

⁵ For further information on NTSB Macrotexture and transverse slope survey reference Appendix C of this report

⁶ For Engineering reports of the runway laser survey reference Appendix D "TGER Technologies, Inc., Runway Laser Survey" of this report.

Appendix A

2009 Resurfacing

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CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR: AS-BUILT 1. REDUCING PAVEMENT WIDTH FROM 150' TO 100' 2. RESURFACING 3. MARKING & STRIPING 5. MARKING & STRIPING FOR RUNWAY 10-28	MACON-DOWNTOWN AIRPORT MACON, GEORGIA AIP No. 3-13-0078-07-2008, DESIGN DOT No. AP090-9000-28(021) BIBB COUNTY, CONSTRUCTION	RAC PROJECT No. 08016-20 Image: Second state stat	C-104 MARTING AND STREPHOLE PLAN MACON-DOWNTOWN AIRPORT		LOCATION MAP
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Appendix B

2011 Inspection Letter

Vance C. Smith, Jr., Commissioner



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Atlanta, Georgia 30308 Telephone:

July 29, 2011

Mr. Scott Coffman, Manager Macon Downtown Airport

Macon, GA 31297

Re: Macon Downtown Airport Inspection

Dear Mr. Coffman:

The Official Code of Georgia Annotated 32-9-8 requires our office to inspect and license your airport. The airport owner must secure a Georgia Airport License prior to operation of the facility, and the issuance of a Georgia Airport License is contingent upon compliance with the requirements set out in Georgia Department of Transportation's Rules and Regulations for Licensing of Certain Open-to-the-Public Airports, Chapter 672-9. In addition, contractual agreements require that we also conduct an airport inspection for the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport Safety Data Program. In accordance with these provisions, James Bildilli of Southern Illinois University Carbondale, under contract with GDOT, inspected the Macon Downtown Airport on June 10, 2011.

The obstructions and other items observed during the inspection are listed below and photographs depicting these observations are attached. Please note obstructions left or right of the runway centerline are from the pilot's perspective on approach to the runway end.

- Runway 10 Meets minimum state licensing requirements, but fails to meet federal requirements for a 34:1 obstruction-free non-precision approach. Trees 415' from the threshold and 215' left of the centerline provide only a 15:1 approach slope.
- Runway 28 Meets minimum state licensing requirements and but fails to meet federal requirements for a 34:1 obstruction-free non-precision approach surface. Trees 510' from the threshold and 200' left of the extended runway centerline provide only a 14:1 approach slope.
- Runway 15 Meets minimum state licensing requirements, but fails to meet federal requirements for a 20:1 obstruction free visual approach. Trees 1130' from the runway and 220' left of the centerline provide only an 11:1 approach slope to the runway end and a 25:1 approach slope to the displaced threshold.
- Runway 33 Meets both state and federal minimum state licensing requirements for a visual approach slope of 20:1.

Mr. Scott Coffman Macon Downtown Airport Inspection July 29, 2011 Page 2

- Primary Surface Violations The Primary Surface for Runway 10/28 is an imaginary surface longitudinally centered on the runway and is 500 feet wide, extending 200 feet off each runway end. The elevation of any point on the primary surface should be the same elevation as the nearest point on the runway centerline and should be free of any obstructions. Trees and brush are located within this area on the north side of Runway 10 approximately 193' left of the centerline near the approach and along the bank. In addition, there are trees and brush located on the south side of Runway 28 approximately 250' from the centerline near the approach and along the bank. These areas 250 feet each side of the runway centerline to 200 feet off each runway end. The Primary Surface for Runway 15/33 is 250' wide extending 200' off of each runway end. There is some brush and trees that are beginning to encroach on the west side of the approach to runway 33. These areas should be cleared to provide a clear off each runway end.
- General Comments Runway 15/33 is showing signs of environmental distress. There are numerous cracks that need to be cleaned and filled. The grass in the cracks should be sterilized before filling. The markings on Runway 15-33 are faded and should be remarked.

This letter is to inform the airport sponsor of any items that may compromise safety, do not meet federal design criteria, or do not meet the State of Georgia licensing requirements. You are encouraged to comply with those standards in order to be in compliance with your federal grant agreements and state licensing standards. The corrective actions that may be prescribed in this inspection report do not relieve the airport owner from compliance with any other federal, state, or local laws, ordinances, or regulations that may be applicable. It is the responsibility of the airport owner to be aware of and obey all Federal, State, or local laws, ordinances, or regulations that may have a bearing on corrective actions that may be specified in this report.

We encourage you to work with your project manager and airport consultant to fully identify all obstructions, and to remove the obstructions as soon as possible, but not later than October 31, 2011. Please contact Amanda J. Hill, our Aviation Planner, at (404) 505-4864 to discuss these inspection findings and to answer any questions concerning the inspection.

As always, thanks for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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Carol L. Comer, Acting Director Division of Intermodal

CLC:AJH

cc: Michael Thomas, Wilbur Smith Associates Scott Seritt, FAA-Atlanta ADO

Mr. Scott Coffman Macon Downtown Airport Inspection July 29, 2011 Page 3

Macon Downtown Airport Inspection Photos



Runway 10

Mr. Scott Coffman Macon Downtown Airport Inspection July 29, 2011 Page 4



Runway 33



Appendix C

Memorandum of Record

Transverse Slope Measurements for Runway 10/28

NTSB Collected Data



MEMORANDUM OF RECORD

Shawn Etcher Air Safety Investigator Eastern Region Aviation

January 15, 2013

Subject: ERA12FA567 – Transverse Slope Measurements from Runway 10/28 collected by NTSB personnel on January 11, 2013

Location ⁱ	20 feet left of centerline	4 feet left of centerline	4 feet right of centerline	20 feet right of centerline
28 Threshold	0.4 acl	0.5 acl	0.6 tcl	0.5 tcl
4500 feet remaining	0.4 acl	0.3 acl	0.2 tcl	0.5 tcl
4000 feet remaining	0.4 acl	0.6 acl	0.3 acl	0.7 tcl
3500 feet remaining	0.7 acl	0.4 acl	0.1 acl	0.6 tcl
3000 feet remaining	0.2 acl	0.3 acl	0.0 -	0.7 tcl
2500 feet remaining	0.7 acl	0.2 acl	0.0 -	0.4 tcl
2000 feet remaining	0.5 acl	0.4 acl	0.4 acl	0.3 tcl
1500 feet remaining	0.4 acl	0.1 acl	0.1 acl	0.3 tcl
1000 feet remaining	0.5 acl	0.3 acl	0.1 tcl	0.7 tcl
500 feet remaining	0.3 acl	0.3 acl	0.1 acl	0.7 tcl
Prior to Threshold ⁱⁱ	0.3 acl	0.2 acl	0.2 acl	0.5 tcl

Notes

- 'acl' means slope/drainage that is away from centerline and is in degrees
- 'tcl' means slope/drainage that is towards the centerline and is in degrees
- The measured runway length was 4,700 feet

ⁱ Distance is in feet as measured from the threshold of runway 28 (also the landing runway)

ⁱⁱ This measurement was taken between the painted '10' and the stripes prior to the threshold

Appendix D

TGER Technologies, Inc., Runway Laser Survey











