

# News Release

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## **DETROIT NEWS RUNWAY STORY “OVERBLOWN”**

*-- Metro Airport's New Runway Meets All Safety, Performance Standards*

“Safety is always our highest priority – and Runway 4L/22R is absolutely safe,” said Lester Robinson, Wayne County’s Director of Airports. “The pavement placed on the new runway meets all safety and performance standards, and is adequate and appropriate for its use.”

Despite a misleading and negative story to the contrary in the Monday, January 28 edition Detroit News, there are no safety or performance concerns related to Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport’s new runway.

“Once again, the Detroit News has ignored the pertinent facts, and overblown a story just to get a headline,” Robinson said.

In a letter sent to the Detroit News on January 11, 2002, Wayne County Director of Engineering, Kevin L. Maillard, said, “Based on test results, the pavement placed has adequate strength for its anticipated use. This runway is safe and these test results should not be construed in any way that the new runway is unsafe or will fail.”

“While some of the test samples did not meet the specifications, all samples were within an acceptable range to ensure the overall performance of the runway – with safety being the highest priority. Additionally, the overall design of the 42-inch pavement runway cross section includes 25 inches of base course below 17 inches of concrete. This design exceeds FAA requirements for the anticipated use. The base course provides substantial structural support for the runway. The concrete is only one component.”

It is not uncommon -- in road, bridge or airport projects -- to find concrete test samples that don't meet specifications, Robinson said. In these cases, additional samples are taken to determine contract compliance.

Wayne County has performed other tests on the runway, and is satisfied with those results. If the future tests indicate that the runway fails to meet contract specifications, Wayne County will obtain a financial credit from the contractor.