



Winter/Spring 2021

Infrastructure for where
you're going.

Prein&Newhof
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Grand Rapids • Holland
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Seeing Farther

Taking flight to see farther together in Michigan

Aviation Infrastructure Improvement Programs Help Support Local Economies

Did you know that the State of Michigan has 226 active public airports? The majority of them are small in size, but each airport plays a key role in supporting the public and the economy. Public airports are owned by municipalities or airport authorities. Ninety-five of Michigan's airports are regulated and supported financially by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Given their requirements to adhere to strict FAA rules and regulations, airports often rely on airport planners and engineering consultants to assist in managing and implementing their infrastructure plans. Most projects are multi-faceted, and some even require a decade of planning to accomplish a given project. Planning is also critical for receiving project funding. The FAA administers annual funding through its Airport Improvement Program, but it requires an annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that lays out projects three to ten years before construction. An airport's pavement infrastructure is rated every three years to determine which projects are able to use available entitlement funding or to seek additional discretionary funding.

Two of Prein&Newhof's airport clients in Michigan's Upper Peninsula are examples of decade-long airfield planning and development programs—Delta County Airport in Escanaba and Ford Airport in Iron Mountain. Both airports are part of the U.S. Department of Transportation Essential Air Service (EAS) Program that ensures small communities are served by certified air carriers. The EAS Program provides access to the National Airport Transportation System—subsidizing two round trips daily to a large airport. Annually, Ford Airport contributes \$54 million in commerce to its local economy and Delta County Airport contributes \$20 million per year in commerce to its local economy. These airports provide vital services and resources for our state in many ways.

Delta County Airport in Escanaba (ESC) is a public-use airport that provides commercial air service to/from Detroit and Minneapolis.



P&N serves 37 Airports in Michigan. Delta County and Ford Airports can be found in red on the map.

In 2010, Delta County began planning for reconstruction of its two runways, both parallel taxiways, an apron, and updating its lighting system, along with miscellaneous pavement repairs. The crosswind runway and its parallel taxiway were reconstructed in 2017, and the primary runway and its parallel taxiway will be reconstructed this summer.

Prein&Newhof is working with the airlines, on behalf of Delta County Airport, to ensure that its 5,000 ft. crosswind runway can be used while its primary runway is shut down, and requested a new flight procedure to accommodate airline use during the project's upcoming construction.

Ford Airport in Iron Mountain (IMT) is a public-use airport that offers passenger and commercial air service to Detroit and Minneapolis. Ford Airport (see cover image) is a regional hub for FedEx (via CSA Air Inc.), serving Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Indiana. Ford Airport has also completed a sizable amount of work in the last ten years, including reconstructing its primary runway, rehabilitating its apron, and some maintenance on its general aviation crosswind runway.

Being an aviation consultant involves extensive planning and coordination of airfield traffic during construction. For smaller airports there are few to no options for rerouting air traffic during construction. "We knew we had to shut down the primary runway at Ford Airport to all passenger traffic for it to be reconstructed," said P&N Project Manager Bob Nelesen, PE. "We take this responsibility very seriously. We applaud Bacco Construction's and J. Ranck Electric's crews who accepted the challenge of completing this work as quickly as humanly possible. They worked 18-hour days and completed the project in just ten days so the community could regain access to the airport and the vital resources it provides."

If you have questions about airport infrastructure improvements, contact **Prein&Newhof Airport Team Leader Phil Johnson, AAE** at 616-364-8491.

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"As an aviation consultant, it is our job to know an airport's airspace and ground operations, as well as assess existing infrastructure to efficiently plan upcoming projects to meet the future needs of the airport."

Bob Nelesen, PE
P&N Project Manager

Traverse City Office Move



We moved our Traverse City office to a newly remodeled building. Our new address is:

**990 Garfield Woods Dr., Suite A
Traverse City, MI 49686**

Professional Achievements to Celebrate



Prein&Newhof Engineer **Julie Feria, PE, GISP** was recently certified as a Geographic Information Systems Professional (GISP). Julie joined Prein&Newhof in 2015,

after graduating from Calvin University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. She received her Professional Engineer (PE) License in the State of Michigan in 2019.



In February, the State of Michigan licensed Prein&Newhof Engineer **Jim Herman, PE** as a Professional Engineer (PE). Jim joined Prein&Newhof in 2018, after graduating

from Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

Three More Professionals Join Prein&Newhof

Scott Cathey began working as a Geologist in January. Scott has experience doing construction materials testing, geotechnical lab work, and performing Phase II Environmental Site Assessments. Scott holds a Bachelor of Science in Geology from Hope College.

Mark Soper joined P&N in April as a Construction Observer working from our Cadillac office. Mark has 10 years of experience as an Engineering Field Technician.

Dario Lirio is a Visual Marketing Specialist who joined P&N in April. He has six years of experience in the film industry, including working at his own company, Latari Studios, for four years. Dario recently earned a Bachelor of Science in Marketing Management from Calvin University.

Summit Surveying, Inc. Joins Prein&Newhof

In March, Prein&Newhof purchased Summit Surveying, Inc., a 20-year-old company previously based in Allendale that focused on land surveying. Summit Surveying co-founders

Todd Bronson, PS and **Rob Hammond, PS** joined Prein&Newhof, where they plan to continue working to meet their clients' needs. Prein&Newhof also hired Summit Surveying's employees, **Rachel Lehman** and **Darren Rogers**. These four colleagues are working from our Grand Rapids office.

Bronson explains this business transition saying, "Summit Surveying had an opportunity to join forces with Prein&Newhof, and it made sense for where Rob and I are in our respective careers. We can now focus all of our energies on surveying rather than managing the daily responsibilities of running a business. We are excited to bring our experience in residential surveying, ALTA/NSPS surveys, and commercial construction layout to the Prein&Newhof team. The many professional services that Prein&Newhof offers will also strengthen our offerings to our clients."

Prein&Newhof President Thomas J. Newhof shares his perspective, "Todd and Rob built their company from nothing and grew it into a successful survey firm that is well-respected in West Michigan. We are honored that Summit Surveying trusts Prein&Newhof to take care of its clients and its employees moving forward. By combining our collective survey experience and staff, we are now well-suited to serve West Michigan's land and construction surveying needs. We are thrilled that they are joining our survey professionals to enhance our capabilities in this essential part of our business."

Prein&Newhof specializes in:

- Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Environmental Consulting
- Surveying
- Geographic Information Systems
- Laboratory Testing

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info@preinnewhof.com.

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