

Hickory Regional Airport

Taking Off in a New Direction for Future Expansion

The Hickory Regional Airport (HKY), located in Hickory, North Carolina is nestled in the foothills of the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains. Since opening its doors on May 17, 1940, HKY has been an integral factor in attracting business, traffic and tourism to all parts of western North Carolina for both commercial traffic and corporate investment.

The airport, considered an in-town airport due to its proximity to the Hickory metro area, is situated just off Highway 321 and is about five minutes from Interstate 40. HKY is less than 25 minutes from Lenoir, less than 30 minutes from Morganton, and 55 minutes from the Boone/Blowing Rock area. The city of Hickory, which owns and operates HKY, was currently awarded the coveted All-American City title for the third time. Four billion dollars are generated in retail sales annually within the Hickory metro area.

Recent changes to HKY now allow the airport to offer 50 acres of developable land for ground lease or build to suit property. The area can also accommodate 30 large to medium hangars and T-hangar sites perfect for business and corporate aviation to thrive in the ongoing business boom of Hickory metro. Throughout the changes, HKY will maintain its reputation as the region's greatest airport and will continue to put the customer first by providing a well-maintained runway and taxiway system, a customer-needs oriented terminal building and by fostering the perfect environment for general aviation.

HKY is central to the area's new business activity, sandwiched between the new Google data center, located 10 miles north in Lenoir, and the Target distribution center, currently under construction 10 miles south in Newton. Over 700 manufacturers, including more than 25 foreign owned firms, from industries such as furniture, fiber optics, automotive, plastic and metal working, all call Hickory home and make HKY ripe for corporate aviation.



HKY has one runway, 6/24, which is 6,400 feet long by 150 feet wide and features 1,000 feet of safety areas on each end. Runway 6/24 was recently resurfaced with a grooved texture, has six different approaches and bears a weight of 88,000 pounds. It also has REILs and pilot controllable high intensity lighting. Runway 24 has an ILS, PAPI, VASI and approach lighting that includes sequenced flashing lights.

Also featured at the airport is a state-of-the-art control tower open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m, seven days a week. The control tower is manned by FAA certified controllers and has the monitoring abilities of ASOS and uses the STARS radar system, which also includes six levels of weather monitoring for traffic patterns. In 2008 the airport expects to receive a FDIO system and ILS base monitoring. In addition to all the other amenities, HKY offers an Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Facility (ARFF) that is on site and manned 24/7. HKY also provides an FBO, Profile Aviation, and car rentals from Hertz, Avis and Enterprise.

HKY also offers free wireless Internet access, business friendly facilities, free parking and excellent airfield maintenance. The terminal building is equipped with ADA approved restrooms and a multi-purpose conference center. The conference center can seat 65 individuals and is located adjacent to on-field restaurant Froggy Pete's, which is available for catering as well. Opened in May of 2007, the Hickory Aviation Museum hosts a variety of static displays on the terminal ramp and a revolving collection of aviation artifacts, including a real ejection seat, and an extensive aviation art gallery within the terminal.

Over 500 acres at HKY and seven other sites in the Greater Hickory metro area have also been granted foreign trade zone status by the U.S. Foreign Trade Zones board, which provides many economic benefits for businesses involved in international trade. These sites were established as an expansion of Charlotte FTZ 57 as a general purpose foreign trade zone intended for business development.

With everything HKY has to offer, from future expansion to current amenities and the world-class business atmosphere of the Hickory metro area, businesses looking to relocate to western North Carolina should look no further than HKY. ➔

For more information, visit www.hickorygov.com/airport/ or call 828-323-7408.