



CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
SIKORSKY
MEMORIAL AIRPORT



MAIN TERMINAL / 1000 GREAT MEADOW ROAD / STRATFORD, CT 06615
TELEPHONE (203) 576-8163 / FACSIMILE (203) 576-8166

March 3, 2009

State Senator Donald DeFronzo, Co-Chair
State Representative Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair
Transportation Committee Membership
State Office Building
Hartford, CT.

RE: COMMITTEE BILL No. 563

Dear Co-Chairmen DeFronzo, Guerrero and Committee:

Sikorsky Memorial Airport has to reconstruct RW 6/24 because it is near the end of its useful/serviceable life. The last time RW 6/24 was rebuilt was 1982.

Since 1982, the standards have changed, and FAA now requires safety areas at the runway ends which creates an overrun for aircraft in distress at takeoff and landing. Ideally, FAA would like to have a standard safety area of 1000 feet at each end of a runway, however, it recognizes that this is not always practicable.

Sikorsky Memorial Airport, after giving a great deal of consideration to environmental impacts has designed a runway reconstruction with a less than standard safety area on the end of Runway 6 which is adjacent to Route 113 using a material called EMAS (engineered material arresting system), in simple terms we will in effect create a cushion for aircraft that overrun the runway. This proposal is acceptable to FAA but it does require the relocation of Route 113 a distance of approximately 350 feet for its installation. The additional benefit of the installation of a safety area is the removal of an unforgiving blast fence.

At the site of this blast fence, on April 27, 1994 the second worst airplane crash in the State of Connecticut occurred.

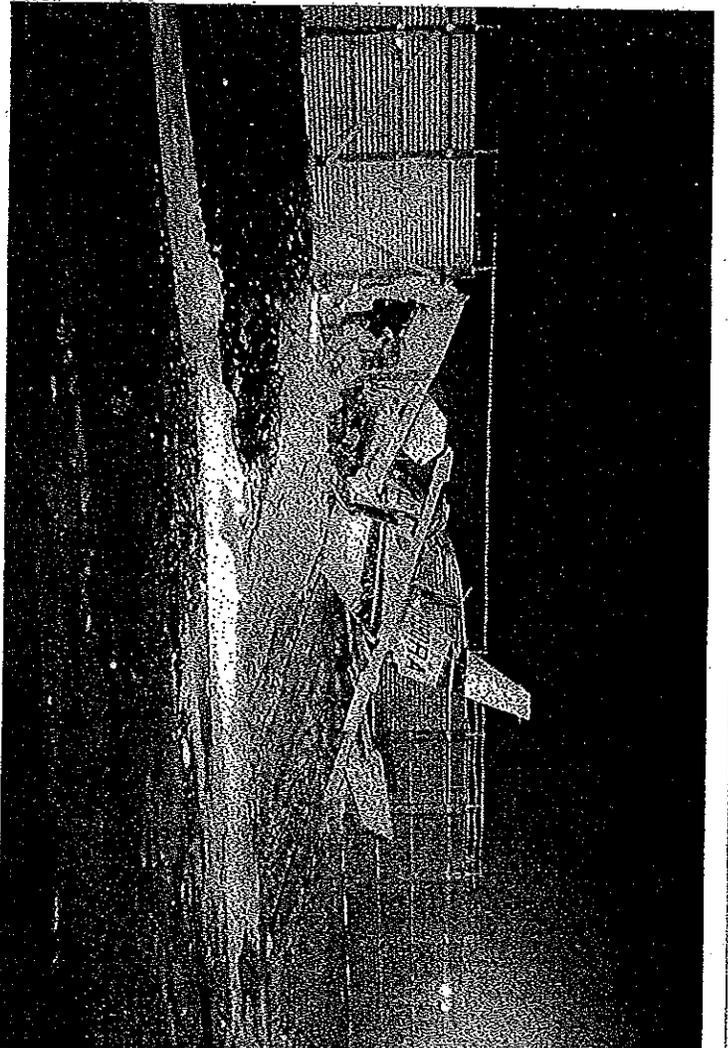
A twin engine Piper Navajo with nine people on board struck the blast fence during foggy weather conditions. Eight people died in that crash and the survivor was severely injured and burned.

After an NTSB investigation, it was determined that the crash was caused by pilot error, however, having been at the scene shortly after the crash, I can tell you it was striking the blast fence that killed the eight people.

04-27-1994

Piper Pa-31-350

**8-Dead, 1-Critically
Injured**



03-09-2001

Hawker HS125

**Aircraft-Total Loss
Over \$500,000
Property Damage**

