

Transportation Inquiry Question: Learning Log Part 1 (this will keep developing over time)

What economic, environmental, and social factors are important to consider when building an airport runway?

Rationale:

I chose this question because Egh told us today that the runway at Billy Bishop is 4990 feet. He also said that every runway is a different size. This got me thinking about how difficult it must be to build a runway in a downtown airport vs a less busy setting (e.g. Billy Bishop vs Pearson airport). I also started to wonder how developing countries can afford to build runways as opposed to countries with a lot of money.

Plan:

I'm going to research the sizes of different airport runways and try and come up with the reasons for the different sizes. I'd also like to work in the environmental and social implications (this means cause and effect). For example, how was the environment affected when Billy Bishop airport was being built. The social factors would include why people were for and against the airport being built. I can also tie in some of the controversy around the development of Pickering airport.

Research:

Point 1 Pearson airport has 5 runways and the size is around 9600 feet.

Analysis:

It makes sense that Pearson has more runways but fascinating that the runway size is almost double that of Billy Bishop. Does this mean that pilots flying into Billy Bishop have to be more skilled because they have less room to work with and this makes me want to know the runway sizes in other countries as well as wanting to learn about shortest and longest runways.

Other points to work in (Optional)

Airport improvement fund pays cost of runways? How much to build?

