



NORTHWEST AIRLINES®



Northwest Airlines, Inc.
Flight Operations
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Northwest Airlines Pilot Survey of the LED line Guidance System Installed at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport

Dear Mr. Hutchins,

The Pilots at Northwest Airlines have been using the LED line guidance system since it was installed here in September 2007 on gates C-8 and C-9. Note: Northwest Airlines only uses gates C-9 and C-8. The system is also installed on Gate C-7, used by Alaska Airlines.

The lights are bright and highly visible in all weather conditions and have been helpful in speeding up the process of properly aligning the aircraft at the gates.

Given the above and because the lighting systems are new as Chief Pilot of Northwest Airlines, in Anchorage, I conducted an informal survey of the Northwest Airline Pilots using the system on inbound flights last winter.

The feedback from the Pilots was very positive.

- The Pilots were impressed with how visible the system was in the snow;
- All thought that the guidance provided by the LED line was better than the standard green taxiway center line lighting.
- They also liked the directionality each light source provided.

They were able to assess the comparative merits of two guidance systems in similar weather conditions, since the systems followed on from one to the other. The differences between the systems were especially noticeable in heavy snow, low visibility conditions, where the linear aspect of each of the LED lines providing direction was very helpful.

I also observed a taxi-in operation personally from a 757 jumpseat and came away similarly impressed.

The LED guidance line lighting system would certainly have other airport applications to help increase Pilot situational awareness. Airport safety could be significantly enhanced by using the system in-pavement for Stop signs, Hold Short bars, Taxiway lights, etc. Additionally, Runway centerline lighting, required for low visibility take-offs and also CAT 111 landings could be vastly improved.

I would encourage the LED line product to be assessed by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration, the Airline Pilots Association as well the Airlines.

I would recommend installing LED line at all our gates system wide.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Tobin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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