



READY TOGETHER TOWN HALL SUMMARY

The Ready Together Town Hall brought together Pitkin County, the City of Aspen, Town of Snowmass Village, Aspen Chamber Resort Association, Aspen One, RFTA, tourism organizations, transportation partners and local businesses to coordinate transportation, visitor communications and community planning throughout the 2027 airport closure.

Together, we're working to keep Aspen accessible, informed and open for business while mitigating community anxiety by providing timely and helpful information across multiple platforms.

Why does the airport have to close in 2027?

The existing runway has reached the end of its useful life and must be completely reconstructed. Because Aspen/Pitkin County Airport has only one runway, the airport must temporarily close while crews rebuild the runway, shift it approximately 80 feet to the west to meet current Airplane Design Group III FAA safety standards, and upgrade lighting and navigational systems.

Will the project be completed on time?

Yes. The construction schedule includes multiple layers of oversight, daily progress tracking and built-in time for FAA inspections and flight checks at the end of the project timeline before reopening. The project team plans to complete runway construction by the end of September 2027, leaving additional time before the airport reopens ahead of the 2027-28 winter season. The planned airport closure is from April 4 through November 19, 2027.

How will people get to Aspen during the closure?

Community leaders are talking about transportation solutions, including:

- Coordinating with regional airports and the airlines to understand flight plans for the 2027 closure period.
- An RFQ in process for a potential regional shuttle service between other airports like Eagle, Denver and Grand Junction to Aspen.
- Rental car parking solutions being discussed, looking at Brush Creek options
- Existing RFTA transit and local transportation services

Transportation details will continue to be shared as plans are finalized.



Will traffic be significantly worse?

Current planning aims to minimize traffic impacts by:

- Keeping construction traffic off the Highway 82/Owl Creek Road intersection whenever possible
- Stockpiling construction materials in advance to reduce truck trips during 2027
- Housing construction workers close to the project
- Expanding transportation alternatives to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips

Officials expect some traffic changes but are working to minimize impacts.

Will Aspen still be open?

Yes. Although there will be multiple capital improvement projects throughout the valley, most hotels, restaurants, businesses, outdoor recreation businesses, arts organizations and nearly all community events will continue as scheduled throughout 2027. The only known event not returning to Aspen is the 2027 Security Forum.

Are visitors still planning to come?

Yes. A recent visitor survey found from ACRA found:

- 66% said the airport closure will have no impact on their plans to visit Aspen.
- 18.6% said they are more likely to visit because they expect a less crowded summer.

Tourism organizations across the valley will continue marketing Aspen and Snowmass throughout the closure.

How will I stay informed?

The airport will continue sharing updates through:

- aspenairport.com/modernization for project updates
- aspenairport.com/construction for construction updates
- [ASE Monthly Newsletter](#)
- [Frequent Flyer Updates](#)
- Airport social media– facebook and instagram
- Public meetings, i.e. Airport Advisory Board and Board of County Commissioners meetings
- Electronic message boards on the road
- PitkinAlert and Website banner
- Public notices in ADN, press releases and local media organizations

The goal is to provide information through the same trusted channels the community already uses.