

MEDIA RELEASE

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Chicago Rockford International Airport Celebrates Completion of Major Taxiway Expansion

Upgrade Paves Way for Future RFD Growth Opportunities

Rockford, IL—The Chicago Rockford International Airport hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony today to celebrate the opening of a newly expanded and rehabilitated taxiway. With the new upgrades, the taxiway is classified as a Group V, which means it can accommodate larger airplanes, including the new Boeing 747-8.

“The upgrade means that the airport can have larger airplanes in more places,” said Amy Ott, RFD Interim Executive Director. “This increased efficiency and flexibility is an important advantage in our efforts to attract growth in new cargo and passenger services.”

The construction took six months and created nearly 100 jobs during that time. Local companies William Charles and Sjostrom & Sons were contracted for the construction work. The project was possible through a \$5.5 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, which was secured with the help of Senator Durbin.

“We greatly appreciate the leadership from Senator Durbin and his office. It’s clear he recognizes RFD’s role as an economic engine in the Greater Rockford Area and ensures that we have the appropriate resources to maximize our impact,” said Bharat Puri, Chairman of the Greater Rockford Airport Authority Board of Commissioners. “The airport is fortunate to have such a strong advocate on the federal level.”

Major ongoing improvements at RFD will continue into next year. In September, the airport announced it received a federal grant of nearly \$7 million for the first phase of a runway construction project, which will begin in spring 2012.

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