

MEDIA RELEASE

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Chicago Rockford International Airport Receives Grant for Runway Project

Upgrade Positions RFD for Future Growth Opportunities

ROCKFORD, Ill. –Chicago Rockford International Airport is receiving a federal grant of nearly \$7 million for the first phase of its runway reconstruction project. The project will upgrade RFD’s runway to accommodate current and additional air cargo activity.

“We are grateful for the assistance from Senator Durbin’s office in securing this grant,” 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. We appreciate the leadership from Senator Durbin and his office, as well as their recognition of RFD’s role as an important economic engine in the Greater Rockford Area.”

“The updated runway is the kind of infrastructure improvements that will put RFD in an even better position to attract cargo carriers and bring more jobs and wealth to the community,” said Amy Ott, RFD interim executive director.

The total cost of phase one of the project is more than \$7.3 million. The airport also received \$180,065 from the State of Illinois, and contributed \$229,770 of its own funds toward the project.

The last major rehabilitation of the runway was undertaken in 1983, with overlays completed in 1993 and 2002 to extend the service life.

“This is another example of how the airport serves as an economic engine for the region. The airport creates hundreds local jobs within the organization and also generates additional employment with the outsourcing of major projects like the runway reconstruction,” said Ott.

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