

MEDIA RELEASE

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RFD Staff Participate in DOT and FAA Forum

Workshop Focuses on Diversion Flight Improvements

ROCKFORD, IL – Passenger Air Service Development Manager Zach Sundquist from the Chicago Rockford International Airport participated in an Aircraft Diversion Forum in Washington, D.C., which was hosted by the Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration on November 30. The forum was attended by more than 100 industry leaders to address the problem of extended tarmac delays for diverted flights.

Airports, airlines, air traffic control, and Homeland Security personnel were in attendance to openly share thoughts and ideas on how to better prepare the National Airspace System for future diversion events.

RFD serves as a primary diversion airport for 31 air carriers that service the region. Its facilities, including a 10,000 ft. runway, a Category II/III Instrument Landing System, fuel and deicing capabilities, International Arrival Gate and geographic location to Chicago O'Hare, Midway and Milwaukee make RFD very attractive to airlines considering where to divert.

As winter weather approaches, this is an especially timely topic of discussion.

“We gained valuable insight and industry connections through our participation in the forum. It also served to reiterate the importance of continually updating our aircraft diversion plan and to work with all of our partners to ensure that what we do is safe and is in the best interest of the airlines and their passengers,” said RFD Interim Executive Director Amy Ott. “We welcome feedback from passengers who have been on a diverted flight to get a better understanding of their needs and make the appropriate updates to our plan.”

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