

The Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce

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Airport Update

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Airport Update

By Carolyn Motz

If you have passed through the US Route 11 corridor between Showalter Road and State Line in the past two years, you are aware that something construction-related is happening at the airport! To answer at least some of the big questions, the airport team offers the following:

What's going on?

The project includes: 2,100-foot eastward extension of Runway 27 and parallel Taxiway A; Construction of standard Runway Safety Areas (RSA's) at both ends of the runway; Relocation of US Route 11 including construction of two underpasses 500 feet and 120 feet long to accommodate the runway and parallel taxiway extensions; Utility relocations along US Route 11; Construction of a new Runway 9 Hold Apron and Connector Taxiway F1; New precision instrument landing systems for both Runway 9 and 27 approaches; and Drainage Improvements/Erosion and Sediment Control/Stormwater Management.

Why are we doing this?

To correct numerous non-standard conditions - most importantly - Runway Safety Areas; to meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airport design criteria; and to allow the Airport to achieve its airside and landside goals as identified and approved in various planning documents.


What is the cost, and what are the funding sources?

The project is estimated at \$60M.

In July 2003, FAA approved a Letter of Intent (LOI) request from the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County for a maximum federal discretionary grant funding totaling \$47 million. The FAA funds provided will be coming from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. It provides revenues used to fund Airport Improvement Program (AIP) projects. The Fund guarantees stable funding from system users. Sources include passenger ticket tax, waybill domestic freight and mail, fuel tax, international departure/ arrival tax, and frequent flyer tax.

The Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) and the Sponsor, Washington County will each provide a 5% match i.e. matching funds of \$2.6 million each. In addition to the matching contribution, MAA funding will be from Maryland Transportation Trust Fund monies. Sources of funds include motor fuel taxes, motor vehicle excise (titling) taxes, motor vehicle fees (registrations, licenses and other fees), and federal-aid. In addition, the Fund includes corporate income taxes, operating revenues (e.g., transit fares, port fees, airport fees), and bond proceeds.

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The State of Maryland Department of Transportation has committed an additional \$8 million for this project. Sources of funds for the Transportation Trust Fund include motor fuel taxes, motor vehicle excise (titling) taxes, motor vehicle fees (registrations, licenses and other fees), and federal-aid.

Is the project on budget?

As of 5/4/06, the project is on budget.

Is the project on time?

There are four packages in the program. Package One, is substantially complete ahead of schedule; Package Two, is on time; Package Three, is slightly ahead of schedule; and Package Four starts in 2007. Total project completion is slated for December 2007.

For more information, see www.FlyHagerstown.com, or call Carolyn Motz at the airport for additional information at (240) 313-2777.

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