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N E W S R E L E A S E

Springfield Airport Completes \$5.4 Million in Capital Improvements in 2009

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS **The Springfield Airport Authority announced the completion of more than \$5.4 million in capital improvements to taxiways, ramps and facilities during the 2009 calendar year.** Of the \$5.4 million in costs, over 97% was funded with federal and state monies. Part of the increase in federal participation this year was due to Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport's award of an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 grant that utilized stimulus funds to complete the reconstruction and expansion of the airport's southeast general aviation ramp. All the improvements completed during 2009 greatly improve areas involving aircraft operations and passenger safety, airport security, energy conservation and customer service.

The capital improvement projects completed or started in calendar year 2009 include the reconstruction and expansion of a general aviation ramp, the widening of Taxiway G including drainage and lighting improvements, airport planning, terminal building lighting replacement to increase energy efficiency, and the necessary acquisition of snow removal and pavement maintenance equipment.

"These are necessary infrastructure and equipment improvements to keep our community's airport safe, modern and competitive in a highly regulated industry," says Airport Authority Board Chair, Frank Vala. "These investments demonstrate our commitment to keeping pace with demand and exceeding regulatory requirements regarding the operation of the airport. We were successful in obtaining and completing an economic stimulus project this year because our strategic planning process kept relevant projects ready to immediately utilize federal funds that come available as engineering design plans and required environmental clearances were completed well in advance," he added. Additionally, the Authority continues to plan for projects that provide multiple benefits

for the facility. For example, the new lighting technology recently installed in the terminal will cut utility costs and reduce electricity usage by at least 50% per fixture. Vala concluded by saying, “we continue to be appreciative of the capital improvement programs available at the federal and state levels, which provide the necessary assistance to complement our efforts to complete these important airport projects.”

The US Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration provides for the planning and programming of airport improvement projects in concert with the Airport Improvement Program (AIP). Funds to support these projects are primarily provided from the Aviation Trust Fund, which is a depository for federal aviation fuel tax receipts. Funding authorization and appropriations are established by Congress. The federal participation has recently been established at 95% and State of Illinois generally provides a 50% match of the remaining 5% balance or 2.5% in conjunction with a 2.5% match from local airport sponsor. Matching funds ratios may vary depending on the classification of the project.

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