

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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Topeka Billard Airport Selected for Aviation Funding

Thirty projects that will enhance safety and service at public use airports in the state have been selected for funding under the 2012 Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP). **Topeka's own Billard Airport is one of the aviation sites selected for KAIP funding.** The Billard Airport project selected includes the sealing of the airport runway with a KAIP funding grant in the amount of \$100,000. Billard Airport will provide \$100,000 in matching funds to complete the project which has a total project cost of \$200,000.

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will contribute \$3.54 million in funding for the projects made possible by T-WORKS, the transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature last May. With local funds of approximately \$714,000, the total infrastructure investment will be \$4.25 million.

“Last year we released a study that showed Kansas airports support more than 47,000 jobs, generate \$2.3 billion in payroll and produce \$10.4 billion in on-airport economic activity,” said Ed Young, KDOT Director of Aviation. “With that kind of impact, it’s not only important to maintain our aviation infrastructure, but to ensure that our investments match the needs of our system plan.”

The projects will address maintenance, runway, facility and equipment needs at airports in Kansas.

KDOT’s Division of Aviation, which manages the program, received 114 project applications for projects totaling approximately \$31.6 million. Both the applications and the total requested funding were the most ever received by KDOT.

Under guidelines of the program, project sponsors are required to pay a minimum of 10 percent of the total project costs, up to a maximum of 50 percent based on population.

The remaining Kansas communities/counties that were also selected for funding are as follows:

North Central

Hillsboro – Airport development plan; **Lincoln** – Airport development plan; **Salina** – Install precision approach path indicators on runway.

Northwest

Bird City – Airfield maintenance equipment; **Colby** – Upgrade airport weather observation system; **Lucas** – Repair and seal airfield pavements; **Norton** – Replace beacon; **Quinter** – Site selection study; **St. Francis** – Repair and seal ramp and taxiways; **Smith Center** – Airspace protection planning; **Trego County/WaKeeney** – Design roadway reconstruction and reconstruct and widen roadway (two projects).

Southeast

Fort Scott – Airspace protection planning; **Ottawa** – Improve fueling system; **Parsons** – Drainage improvement; **Pittsburg** – Airspace protection planning.

South Central

El Dorado – Airport weather observation system; **Greensburg** – Replace airport; **Great Bend** – Airfield drainage improvements; **Hutchinson** – Repair and seal runways and taxiways; **Kinsley** – Overlay runway; **LaCrosse** – Repair runway, ramps and taxiways; **Oxford** – Replace hangar; **Wellington** – Reconstruct south taxiway and repair Jet-A ramp (two projects).

Southwest

Satanta – Overlay runway; **Syracuse** – Repair and seal airfield pavements and update airspace plan (two projects); **Tribune** – Airspace protection planning.

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