

# Will Rogers World Airport

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## **Will Rogers World Airport Receives \$5 Million Grant for Reconstruction of East Runway**

OKLAHOMA CITY - Will Rogers World Airport will receive nearly \$5 million of federal Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant funds for the reconstruction of its primary runway. This significant project for the airport will enable continued long-term use of an essential runway as airport traffic continues to grow in the coming years.

“We are very pleased that the funds have been approved for this major improvement” said Airport Director, Luther Trent. “This, along with our terminal expansion, will help meet the long-term aircraft capacity for our airport well beyond our 2012 planning period.”

The original runway was built in 1963 and has undergone several strengthening projects. But age and lack of an adequate underdrainage system has resulted in significant deterioration that could be problematic for airport operations in a couple of years.

This project is the first of two phases that will totally rebuild the east runway/taxiway system. Phase one will involve removing and replacing a 5,900-ft by 150-ft section of asphalt runway with a concrete pavement at a cost of \$6.8 million. The second phase will include the reconstruction of all the parallel and connecting taxiways and the construction of two new taxiways at an approximate cost of \$6.3 million. Will Rogers expects to receive an additional \$5 million in grant money next year for phase two.

A contract for the first phase has been awarded to Haskell Lemon Construction. Work is expected to begin the first part of March with an anticipated completion date of November 1.

The airport will have a similar schedule for phase two, but a contract has not yet been awarded for that portion of the project.

“The timing for this construction is crucial” says Trent. “The east runway is our primary runway and is equipped with sophisticated landing systems. It is essential to have that runway open during the winter months, when Oklahoma City is most likely to experience low visibility.”

While the runway is under construction, aircraft will use the west runway and the crosswind runway, both of which are adequate for Oklahoma City’s commercial air traffic.

The one operation that has been impacted as a result of the construction project is Aerospace America. Since there will not be an “extra” runway during airshow time, the airport was unable to accommodate the annual show at Will Rogers. Officials of the airport and Aerospace America worked closely together to find a temporary home for the world-renowned show for the next two years. The event will be held at Clarence Page Airport which was the site of the World Aerobatic Championships in 1998.