



News from Congressman Dan Lipinski

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For Immediate Release: August 9, 2019

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Lipinski Announces \$3.3 Million FAA Grant for Lewis University Airport

CHICAGO-- Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-3) today announced that Lewis University Airport in Romeoville has been awarded a \$3.3 million federal grant from the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program to reconstruct Taxiway B, the airport's main artery. Construction is expected to begin in May 2020, for completion in September 2020.

"Lewis University Airport is a strong economic driver for Romeoville and the greater Will County region, and I will continue to work on its behalf to help it reach its full potential," said Congressman Lipinski, the senior Illinois member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Aviation. "In addition to the taxiway improvements, earlier this summer I was able to help the airport expand its business opportunities by helping secure funding for a new air traffic control tower. I thank the Joliet Regional Port District, the State of Illinois, the Village of Romeoville, Will County, Lewis University, and other local stakeholders for their advocacy and support behind the airport's continued growth."

Lewis University Airport (KLOT) is one of the top five busiest airports in the state and is located near three major interstate highways in a fast-growing region. The Airport is home to 150 aircraft - including ten corporate jets, with annual aircraft operations of over 100,000.

Taxiway B is the oldest pavement surface still in service at the airport. The initial phase of its construction dates back to 1991, when it was constructed for smaller 12,500-pound aircraft weights then using the airport. With the growth of corporation aviation activity at KLOT, aircraft weighing 75,000 pounds now regularly use the taxiway, which is severely distressed from heavy use and aircraft weight. The \$3.3 million federal grant completes the three-phase tear-out and reconstruction of Taxiway B, the airport's most important pavement surface supporting the airport's two corporate runways. The federal grant money will also support updated taxiway lighting.

"The Port District and our airport tenants and users, and the communities we serve, gratefully appreciate the commitment of our Congressmen and Senators in securing this final piece of Federal assistance to complete this critical pavement preservation," said Joliet Regional Port District Chairman David Silverman.

"Congressman Lipinski works tirelessly to bring these sorely needed FAA funds to his hometown district. Taxiway B is our airport's main artery, and allows all traffic at the airport to flow smoothly and efficiently."

The airport will remain open throughout construction to serve its tenants and visitors.

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