

NEWS RELEASE

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Airport to Receive \$51 Million from USDOT

Letter of Intent will Fund Safety and Capacity Improvements

Anchorage, Alaska February 3, 2003 – Governor Murkowski announced approval today, of a \$51 million grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation to upgrade airfield facilities at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.

“This is great news for Alaska's transportation infrastructure,” said Governor Frank Murkowski. “I am proud of the work by the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport team in providing the FAA information that resulted in this funding. This is especially good news for the local Anchorage carriers, who will enjoy relief from having to pay for the needed infrastructure through landing fees.”

“This money will be used to keep the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport on the cutting edge of aviation technology by upgrading the airfield,” said Morton V. Plumb, Airport Director. “This is particularly satisfying for the Airport since the money is awarded on a competitive basis with other U. S. airports using the FAA’s criteria for positive benefit-cost analysis. It enables the Airport to receive the new large cargo planes expected to be in use by leading air cargo companies in the next six years.”

Anchorage International is one of six airports selected by the industry to receive service from the new large cargo airplanes like the Airbus 380. Because the

wingspan of the Airbus 380 is 262 feet, 38 feet wider than the 747-400 now in use, it requires widened runways and taxiways. At 1.3 million pounds, it also weighs up to 450,000 pounds more than the 747-400.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Letter of Intent commits \$51,264,000 in Airport Improvement Program funds to the Airport over a six-year period. The money, which is contingent on passage of the FY03 Omnibus Appropriations bill, will be used to increase capacity at the Airport -- paying for the construction of taxiways, and an upgrade existing runway 6R/24L and taxiway Kilo to meet the new airport design standards for airports receiving service from the new large airplanes.

“This Letter of Intent reduces the cost to the airlines for needed safety and capacity projects at the Airport,” said Anchorage Airport Director Morton V. Plumb, Jr. “Taxiway Yankee construction will be able to be finished this summer, reducing North/South congestion. It will alleviate head-to-head taxiing thereby expediting arrivals and departures and enhancing ground and air traffic flow efficiency and aircraft safety.”

Projects planned with these funds for the 2004 and 2005 construction seasons include the reconstruction of Taxiway Kilo, the Airport’s primary East/West taxiway.

The Office of the Governor and the Airport worked closely with U. S. Senator Ted Stevens and Secretary Mineta of the Department of Transportation to help secure these funds, of which \$39 million is allocated by the Secretary from discretionary funds.



Morton V. Plumb, Jr.
Airport Director

Anchorage International is the leading cargo airport in the Western Hemisphere as measured by the weight of all-cargo aircraft and has the distinction of being the key international cargo crossroads for transpacific freighter activity. FedEx, UPS and Northwest operate major hubs with over fifty other cargo airlines also land at the Airport on a regular basis.

Information about the Airport can be found at www.anchorageairport.com.

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