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Airport receives ramp funding

FAA to pay 90 percent of aviation ramp expansion

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The City of Huntington Municipal Airport is one step closer to expanding its airport ramp.

The airport on Friday celebrated the Huntington County Board of Aviation Commissioners receiving a second grant installment totaling \$490,000 from the Federal Aviation Administration. This is the second phase of the \$1.8 million project.

The FAA has provided 90 percent of the funds – with the remaining 10 percent split between the city and the Indiana Department of

Transportation, according to Steve Gray, airport manager.

“The Huntington Board of Aviation Commissioners have a growth and development plan at the airport,” Mark Wickersham, Huntington County Board of Aviation Commissioners member, said. “Two years ago we began identifying some capital improvement opportunities that would help our airport become an even larger, more significant engine in the economic development world.”

The inception of the project came when the board started analyzing the aging

infrastructure at the airport, and determined that the fuel farm needed attention.

Wickersham described the fuel farm as a gas station at the airport for airplanes. He further said there is not anything wrong with the current fuel farm, but it is not located in the most convenient location on the tarmac behind the terminal.

“It is dated and would be helpful to have some new technology so we pursued grants with the FAA,” Wickersham said. “We were told if we were going to do a new fuel farm we should expand the apron ramp area where airplanes park.”

The airport owned by the

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GROUNDBREAKING: Pictured from left at the ramp expansion groundbreaking Friday at Huntington Municipal Airport are: Tony Korba, E & B Paving; Tom Mettler and Mark Wickersham, Huntington Board of Aviation Commission members; Chris Crabtree, senior advisor to U.S. Congressman Jim Banks; State Rep. Andy Zay (R-District 17); State Rep. Dan Leonard (R-District 50); Greg Koppelman, E & B Paving; Ken Ross, airport construction engineering consultant; Jr. Geiger, Board of Aviation Commission president and Brooks Fetters, Huntington mayor.

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city of Huntington was approved for federal grant funding for two phases a year ago. Each phase costs approximately \$490,000. Phase one took place last year and was removing the existing parking lot and regrading the surface.

Phase two is the apron project for the expansion of the aviation ramp. The project began Monday, Oct. 2 and will be completed in six weeks. E & B Paving, Huntington, is the contractor for the project.

“The ramp will improve

the efficiency of aviation operations at the airport and allow for additional growth at the airport,” Wickersham said.

City of Huntington Mayor Brooks Fetters said the apron project will be a good driver for economic development.

“Many of our companies use the airport for commuting and getting executives back and forth where they need to be,” Fetters said.

The airport also supports a large ag business with crop dusting and he said he is proud of what the board and airport has done to make it one of the best regional airports around.