

Airport Authority Board approves taxiway project

The additional project will allow for bigger aircraft to turn easier on the taxiway

BY JOSH JONES

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MT. VERNON —The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners received an update on the upcoming taxiway project while also approving another taxiway project to run simultaneously.

"Taxiway Alpha One is a state/federal project that has been tracking along on our TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) sheet that we go up for every October and that is up for this summer," said Airport Director Chris Collins. "That is a small taxiway on the runway five end that is extending basically to the mainte-

nance ramp, toward the fire station area."

Collins explained that about six to eight years ago they chose not to revitalize the taxiway due to other ongoing projects at that time.

"That one has continued to deteriorate and it has made the list for rehab," Collins said. "It is a \$181,000 total project cost with a \$9,050 local share."

Collins said that there was no need for action as that project is already on its way, but noted another project that, if approved, would run at the same time.

"What kind of tracks along inside the booklet is the taxiway alpha fillet project that we have talked about in last two capital development plans," Collins said. "That is where we put a little bit extra material down in the dog leg areas near runway five."

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A fillet, in mechanical engineering, is a rounding of an interior or exterior corner of a part design. The airport's fillets will be areas of extra concrete being added to the taxiway to allow bigger planes to turn easier.

"Some of the bigger airplanes that have extended length from main gear to the nose gear can't navigate the turns down there safely without doing a lot of extra maneuvering and taking the nose almost all the way to the end of the runway and making a 90 degree left turn to come around that," Collins said. "So, we have drawn up some plans to put some additional concrete in the fillets."

Collins said that they

have managed to get big aircrafts in the airport before and are planning on having more come in the future, but also had his concerns if they did not do the project.

"What I am concerned about is what if I am not here to talk to them," Collins said. "The fillets will make things a lot safer."

Collins said that the project would probably take about two days to complete.

"Why I am bringing this up now is, I would like to get official approval to go out for bids for this project," Collins said. "We want to do this project simultaneously with the Alpha One, because we have to shut the runway down for Alpha One."

The exact total cost of the second project is currently unknown until bids are collected.

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TAXIWAY PROJECTS — The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners approved a taxiway project for adding extra materials to allow for bigger airplanes to make turns during a recent meeting.