



MT. VERNON AIRPORT AUTHORITY
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-----**COMMUNITY RELEASE**-----

“Airport to Launch Momentum 2020”

Airport officials will soon embark on another proactive capital development plan titled *Momentum 2020*. *Momentum 2020* will implement FAA mandated projects, increase badly needed aircraft storage capacity, and further the revitalization of airport areas that will be needed for future economic development. *Momentum 2020* will be funded through General Obligation Bonds, Airport Improvement Program Entitlements, and possible FAA discretionary grants.

A complete list of projects associated with *Momentum 2020* is included in Attachment One. Total costs, including the local portion for *Momentum 2020*, appears in Attachment One.

It is the goal of the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority to make capital improvements to the airport with little to no increase of property taxes. To date, the MVAA has accomplished this goal. Attachment Two shows the Overall Tax Rates & Equalized Assessed Values (EAV) over the last seventeen years. The Overall Tax Rate has decreased over much of the time period shown!

MOMENTUM 2020 PROJECTS

NEW “T” HANGAR

Since 2005, aircraft storage buildings at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport have been full. Engineering work has been ongoing over the years in preparation for a new row of “T” Hangars northeast of the current “T” Hangar area. Increased capacity is needed for storage of based and transient aircraft. The last row of “T” Hangars built at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport was constructed in the 1980’s.

Aircraft storage capabilities contribute direct benefits to the local economy through aircraft fuel sales, maintenance, and storage fees (monthly, weekly, daily rent). Presently, 15% of based aircraft are owned by pilots living outside of Jefferson County. Owners base their aircraft at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport for many reasons: infrastructure, aircraft services, non-congested airspace, safety, and the positive energy provided by business tenants and fellow pilots. Increased storage capacity results in more economic activity in the areas described above. Another attribute to increased storage capacity is that it allows the airport to attract additional professional business leaders who own aircraft to the Mt. Vernon area.

RUNWAYS/TAXIWAYS

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport’s main runway, rehabilitated and painted in 2005, will undergo mid-life maintenance in the Summer of 2016. Longitudinal paving lane joints will be excavated and filled with sealer and the entire runway surface will be painted to updated FAA standards. Concurrently, fillets will be added to the Taxiway “A” inner surfaces near Runway 05. The fillets will allow for safer taxi operations for larger aircraft such as the McDonnell Douglas MD-80. Seal coating of Taxiway “B2”, one

of two air carrier taxiways last rehabilitated in 2007, should extend its life another ten years. Supporting pavements to and around the new five place “T” Hangar is slated for the Fall 2017. The rehabilitation of Taxiway “A1”, and new pavement leading to the airport Fuel Farm Ramp in the Fall of 2018, rounds out the aircraft movement surface projects included in the *Momentum 2020 Plan*.

INNOVATION PARK

Innovation Park, the southwest quadrant industrial park initiative, will be bolstered by three projects. The automotive side entry drive will be oil and chipped in the Summer of 2016. Electrical upgrades required prior to the construction of privately built Hangar #2 will also be completed in the Summer of 2016. The electrical upgrade will consist of relocating Ameren’s main transformer to the Innovation Park Utility Corridor, rerouting the Snow Removal Equipment and Fuel Farm Feeds, and installing a new multi-unit meter base. The construction of a new concrete ramp serving Hangar #2 is the last Innovation Park project listed. This project assumes that Hangar #2 is built and relies on the availability of a State/Local Program for its funding.

MACHINERY & SIGNAGE

Momentum 2020 includes the upgrade of some key airport components. The airport’s only mowing tractor, a 2000 New Holland TS-110 has nearly 7000 hours. The plan calls for replacement of this machine with a similar or greater horsepower machine. *Momentum 2020* also includes the acquisition of an ATV. An ATV is badly needed for weed and wildlife control. The airport’s wooden, externally lighted, entry sign (circa 1975) will be replaced with a modern, attractive, and welcoming unit. One electronic remote gate operator will be installed at Gate #4 serving corporate tenants accessing Hangar A-1100 or the Community Hangar.

MOMENTUM 2020 FUNDING

The current Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding proportional match is 90% Federal, 5% State, and 5% Local. The proportional scale requires the airport have funds on hand to match Federal and State funds expended on projects. Many projects such as land acquisitions and projects mandated by the FAA that do not utilize airport entitlement funds require the airport to expend local dollars. Re-imbursement is then applied for, and in many cases, takes years to recapture. The bottom line is that if funds are not available in the airport’s Capital Projects Fund, airfield projects (whether FAA mandated or not) may never initiate.

General Obligation Bonds: The airport intends to “dovetail” (extend) its current bonding schedule in an effort to provide local funding for projects and establish the matches for Federal/State projects. The airport’s current Non-Referendum Bond Capacity is \$1.33 Million. To keep projects in line with the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics Transportation Improvement Program, the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority intends to sell bonds for the next three year period. Mt. Vernon Outland Airport’s current Non-Referendum Debt Service Extension Base (DSEB) is \$230,256. The original DSEB established in 1997 by PTEL is \$205,900. Property tax rates are directly proportional to the EAV. To manage *Momentum 2020* with a pledge of no property tax increases, the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority intends to sell bonds at an annual amount well below the existing Debt Service Extension Base of \$230,256. Doing so should keep the overall tax rate constant regardless of whether the EAV increases or decreases.

Airport Improvement Program/General Aviation Entitlement: All general aviation airports w/o 10,000 enplanements (air-carrier) per year, receive \$150,000 annually for capital improvements. The airports do not receive these funds directly as the Illinois Department of Transportation, acting on behalf of the FAA, administers the funds to contractors after all work is completed and reviewed by IDOT Staff. All work is placed on a State letting schedule. Entitlement funds are most often used for paving operations such as runway/taxiway revitalizations.

SNAPSHOT: MT. VERNON OUTLAND AIRPORT 2016

With the exception of scheduled airline services, every other aspect of aviation is thriving at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. Annual operations total close to 25,000 each year. Based aircraft tenancy is over 50, including eleven multi engine aircraft, three helicopters, and one turbojet. Annual fuel sales hover around 100,000 gallons of Jet A and 100LL Aviation Gasoline.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

In 2012, the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics commissioned and released the Illinois Aviation Economic Impact Study. The study was the culmination of numerous passenger and airport surveys conducted to determine the individual and statewide value of the Illinois aviation system. The study was completed by CDM Smith.

The study lists the total economic output of Mt. Vernon Outland Airport at \$18.9 Million and total jobs at 149 when all impacts and multipliers are applied.

On airport jobs are listed at 45 with a \$7,100,000 direct economic output. But these numbers are actually higher as the study only lists aeronautical related businesses. When airport based businesses ARDL, ProjectResourcesIT, Epilepsy Foundation of Southern Illinois, and AristaCuts are added, the on airport job total is 83 and the economic output is nearly \$11,000,000. ***With an Annual Tax Levy of \$320,000, the \$11,000,000 direct economic impact yields a 3300% return on the taxpayers investment!***

Since the late 1990's, millions of dollars from the FAA and IDOT have been appropriated for pavement (ramp, runway, and taxiway) revitalizations at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. These projects put local tradesman to work and only cost local taxpayers 5% of the total project costs.

AWARDS

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport was selected by the Illinois Department of Transportation-Division of Aeronautics as the 2015 Airport of the Year. The award was based on recent improvements to airfield facilities, good maintenance of the facility, preservation and enhancement of airfield safety, and good community relations. This was the fourth time the airport has achieved this special status; the last time was in 2007.

The Jefferson County Hall of Honor, Colonel R.D. White Veterans Museum, and Jefferson County Heroes Memorial won the 2014 Governor's Hometown Award in December, 2014. The Mt. Vernon Outland Airport based exhibits won in the Memorials and Monuments category.

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport and its volunteers were honored for service in 2015. Airport officials and volunteers accepted the award in Springfield for the Business Category in southern Illinois.

SAFETY

Safety plays a large part in the day to day operations of the airport. Mt. Vernon Outland Airport owns a state of the art Air Rescue Fire Fighting Rapid Response Vehicle (ARFF/RIV) available to assist the public 24/7. The ARFF/RIV is stocked with the latest crash fire rescue equipment as well as AMKUS Hydraulic Rescue (Jaws of Life) and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Equipment (positive pressure air packs). The City of Mt. Vernon Fire Department operates a 1000 gallon pump truck positioned online with the airport ARFF/RIV. The pump truck is stocked with an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) as well as Cardiac Monitoring Equipment. This complex equipment, in the hands of highly skilled City of Mt. Vernon Firefighters/Paramedics on duty at the joint airport/City Air Rescue Fire Station (MVFD #3) provide first response to thousands of residents on the East side of Mt. Vernon.

Air Evac Lifeteam, Base XI, is located at the intersection of Illinois Highway 15 and Aviation Drive. The base is staffed 24/7 with a Bell Jet Ranger EMS Helicopter, pilot, flight nurse, flight paramedic, and base mechanic. Jefferson County is fortunate to have Air Evac Lifeteam in the community and it has called Mt. Vernon Outland Airport "home" since 2000.

SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY

Excluding the St. Louis Metro East area, Mt. Vernon Outland Airport is home to the only FAA Certified Aircraft Repair Station in the southern end of the State – SRT Aviation. SRT Aviation is a regional aircraft maintenance base specializing in Beechcraft Single Engine to the Hawker Beech Premier Jet and everything inbetween. SRT is an authorized Prime Turbines and Western Skyways Engine Dealer and factory approved Michelin rubber installer (tires and de-icing boots). On the Avionics side, SRT Aviation is a FreeFlight ADS-B and S-Tec Auto Pilot installer. Other services offered by SRT Aviation include aviation fuels, aircraft rental, flight instruction, and pilot supplies. Subsidiary entity Southern Illinois Light Sport Training Academy draws pilot candidates from across the country to obtain Sport Pilot Licenses.

Eric Evans Aviation, located in the southwest portion of Innovation Park is the National Sales Manager for Jabiru USA Sport Aircraft. Evans Aviation fills the gap between seller and buyer from the recreational pilot to the large corporate entity. Evans Aviation also offers aviation consulting, aircraft detailing, and minor aircraft maintenance.

FAA Designated Pilot Examiner Leland Widick, located inside the Koziara Terminal, offers testing for new pilot candidates, pilots looking to add certifications, and aviation consulting/counseling. Leland Widick's candidates come from area universities such as SIU, Part #141 schools like AIRGO Incorporated, and Part #61 Programs operating at all surrounding airports. Candidates from across the Indiana State line routinely find their way to Mt. Vernon Outland Airport because of Leland Widick.

Winter conditions do not idle Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. The airport maintains a full fleet of snow removal equipment, runway de-icing fluids, and aircraft de-icing capabilities up to Boeing 717's.

A modern security camera system allows for the recording of key airport locations. The camera system offers peace of mind by allowing remote access viewing via smart phone or tablet.

Airport websites (Airport, Hall of Honor, & Midwest LSA Expo) are optimized for Google searches and formatted for smartphone and tablet viewing. The airport even has its own YouTube Channel containing numerous videos of past and present airport operations.

EVENTS

Every other year hundreds of Illinois National Guardsman from the southern end of the State board multiple Air National Guard C130 “Hercules” aircraft for flights to their summer training. The aircraft and troops return 2.5 weeks later. Mt. Vernon Outland Airport is one of only two civilian airports this type of U.S. Military Movement occurs.

Each September, the Plane & Pilot Midwest LSA Expo occurs at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. This National event has become the place to shop, spend one on one time with aircraft representatives, and take part in demonstration flights in the aircraft of choice. The event draws attendees from across the country and Canada.

Every other year Mt. Vernon Outland Airport hosts the Experimental Aircraft Association Airventure Cup Race. The Airventure Cup Race is the country’s fastest cross country air race. The race alternates each year between Mitchell, South Dakota and Mt. Vernon, Illinois to Oshkosh, Wisconsin to kick off EAA Airventure. Nearly 80 aircraft participate each year.

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport’s infrastructure and the City of Mt. Vernon’s Hospitality Industry makes the package an ideal location for aviation events. The airport is home to the National KR Gathering, has hosted the National Ercoupe Convention twice, and is an annual host to regional, Fly Baby and Ercoupe Owners Fly-Ins.

Locally, the Annual Salute to Freedom and Balloons Over Mt. Vernon events draw thousands of residents to the airport. The airport is also home to other large scale events such as the University of Illinois Extension 4H General Project Fair, Salem South Baptist Association Tent Revival, Summersville Grade School Cross Country Relays, and the occasional CTA Family Picnic.

CONCLUSION

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport has many amenities currently in place to be one of the most successful airports in the Midwest: impressive infrastructure, excellent location, great service tenants - including aircraft maintenance and sales, skilled and dedicated 24/7 first responders, pilot training/examining professionals, and a team philosophy second to none. Competition in the future will take these amenities plus more to attract manufacturing jobs in the aviation and non-aviation sectors. *Momentum 2020* ensures Mt. Vernon Outland Airport’s infrastructure remains primed and ready for future growth.

ATTACHMENT ONE - MOMENTUM 2020 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

<u>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TIMELINE</u>	<u>TOTAL COST</u>	<u>LOCAL COST</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
All Terrain Vehicle	2016	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Oil & Chip Innovation Park Access Road	2016	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Seal Coat Taxiway Taxiway "B2"	2016	\$7,300	\$7,300	
Rout & Fill Runway 05/23 Cracks & Paint	2016	\$330,000	\$16,500	<i>State/Federal</i>
Taxiway "A" Fillets	2016	\$30,000	\$30,000	
New Mowing Tractor	2016	\$70,000	\$70,000	
Five Place "T" Hangar (Building & Site Prep)	2016	\$300,000	\$300,000	
New "T" Hangar Access Taxiway	2016	\$375,000	\$18,750	<i>State/Federal</i>
New Sign	2017	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Innovation Park Electrical Upgrades	2017	\$75,000	\$75,000	
Self Service Fuel Pump(s)	2017	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Innovation Park Hangar #2 Ramp	2018	\$415,175	\$41,518	<i>State/Local</i>
Install Gate #4 Operator	2018	\$50,000	\$2,500	<i>State/Federal</i>
Rehabilitate "A1" & Install New Fuel Farm Taxiway	2018	\$300,000	<u>\$15,000</u>	<i>State/Federal (JP Phase II)</i>
		\$2,037,475	\$656,568	

Note: Local cost total is the amount needed for funding via General Obligation Bonds

ATTACHMENT TWO: TAX RATES & EAV

Note: Tax rates are for \$100 per Assessed Evaluation

Source: County Clerk's Office

<u>Year</u>	<u>Corporate</u>	<u>Bond & Int.</u>	<u>Overall Tax Rate</u>	<u>EAV</u>
98/99	\$0.0605	\$0.1576	<i>\$0.2181</i>	\$130,672,364
99/00	\$0.0623	\$0.1496	<i>\$0.2119</i>	\$134,627,931
00/01	\$0.0630	\$0.1449	<i>\$0.2079</i>	\$139,786,189
01/02	\$0.0519	\$0.1391	<i>\$0.1910</i>	\$145,571,577
02/03	\$0.0512	\$0.1302	<i>\$0.1814</i>	\$155,135,697
03/04	\$0.0513	\$0.1261	<i>\$0.1774</i>	\$162,011,125
04/05	\$0.0517	\$0.1250	<i>\$0.1767</i>	\$162,123,860
05/06	\$0.0535	\$0.1239	<i>\$0.1774</i>	\$164,534,539
06/07	\$0.0526	\$0.1164	<i>\$0.1690</i>	\$175,494,278
07/08	\$0.0524	\$0.1110	<i>\$0.1634</i>	\$183,881,035
08/09	\$0.0519	\$0.1044	<i>\$0.1563</i>	\$195,308,338
09/10	\$0.0521	\$0.1024	<i>\$0.1563</i>	\$198,734,505
10/11	\$0.0553	\$0.1047	<i>\$0.1600</i>	\$193,490,186
11/12	\$0.0585	\$0.1099	<i>\$0.1684</i>	\$186,940,980
12/13	\$0.0605	\$0.1097	<i>\$0.1702</i>	\$187,412,382
13/14	\$0.0608	\$0.106	<i>\$0.1701</i>	\$193,015,303
14/15	\$0.0598	\$0.104	<i>\$0.1638</i>	\$196,350,368

ATTACHMENT THREE – CAPITAL EXPENSE NARRATIVE

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport encompasses nearly 1000 acres of real estate located mostly between Illinois Highway 15 to the south and Old Fairfield Road to the north. The various runways, taxiways, ramps, aprons, automotive parking lots, and roadways represent nearly 50 acres of asphalt and concrete.

Twenty-one structures, including a large modern airline terminal, a well-equipped Fixed Base Operations Hangar, two hangar/office buildings, and one spacious community/event hangar, provide a home to numerous aviation and non-aviation business. A joint airport/City of Mt. Vernon Crash Rescue Fire Station (MVFD Station #3) and Air Evac Lifeteam Operations/Maintenance Base make Mt. Vernon Outland Airport a safe place to conduct business.

Airport capital improvements and equipment costs vary but there are several items requiring periodic attention. Pavement life for most asphalt surfaces is twenty years. Concrete can last a few years longer. Aircraft movement areas inside the perimeter fencing are co-managed by the airport and the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics. Funding is on a 90% Federal, 5% State, and 5% Local split. Pavement surfaces outside the perimeter fencing (roads and automotive parking lots) are 100% funded locally by the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority.

Other items requiring periodic management and funding include but are not limited to the following:

- Building Roofs
- Sanitary Sewer Lift Stations (2 typical)
- Commercial Grade HVAC Systems (large buildings & hangars)
- Snow Plow, Tractor, & Large Truck Tires
- Airport Lighting (receptacles, cabling, bulbs, & lenses)
- Airport Signage (FAA Specifications)
- Constant Current Regulators (7 typical)
- Auxiliary Generators (3 typical)
- Periodic Obstruction Removal (Tree) Projects
- Painting/Marking of movement surfaces (FAA Specifications)
- Air Rescue Firefighting Equipment
- Mowing & Snow Removal Equipment
- Fuel Farm Storage Tanks & Process Piping

The elements described and listed above provide the foundation required for a safe and accommodating facility like Mt. Vernon Outland Airport.