



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

“Airport to Launch Momentum 2023”

Airport officials will soon embark on another proactive capital development plan titled *Momentum 2023*. *Momentum 2023* 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 2023* will be funded through General Obligation Bonds, Airport Improvement Program Entitlements, and possible FAA discretionary grants.

A complete list of projects associated with *Momentum 2023* is included in Attachment One. Total costs, including the local portion for *Momentum 2023*, appears in Attachment One.

Just like previous capital development plans, it is the goal of the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority to make 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 twenty years. The Overall Tax Rate has decreased over much of the time period shown!

MOMENTUM 2023 PROJECTS

NEW FIVE PLACE HANGAR ROW

Aircraft storage buildings at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport are at capacity. Increased capacity is needed for storage of based and transient aircraft. Engineering work will soon begin in preparation of a new row of box hangars south of the current “T” Hangar area. The last row of individual storage hangars built at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport were 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/RAMPS/ROAWAYS

The new five place hangar requires site preparation and pavement for aircraft access. A hangar access taxiway project will relocate utilities, remove fencing, and install pavement ahead of the new hangar.

Momentum 2023 will continue to address the southwest frontal area, also known as Innovation Park

Distressed, unused pavement will be removed and a new taxiway installed to the airport's fuel farm ramp.

Paving of the airport's perimeter access road is included in Momentum 2023. A majority of the road's surface is aged oil and chip. Paving of the roadway will reduce wear and tear on aircraft service equipment moving on the roadway daily.

Specialized asphalt treatment will be applied to Taxiway E1, one of two air carrier taxiways leading to the Koziara Terminal ramp. The treatment is necessary to preserve the taxiway to increase its life span.

AIRFIELD LIGHTING

Momentum 2023 includes both phases of a long awaited airfield lighting replacement. The existing runway and taxiway lights, as well as the associated lighting infrastructure at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport, were installed in the 1960's and 1970's. Having the latest technology will save the airport thousands of dollars annually and improve the appearance of the airport.

MACHINERY, FENCING, BUILDINGS

Momentum 2023 includes upgrades to some key airport components and buildings. A late 1970's Ford Dump Truck/Snow Plow unit will be replaced with a newer dump truck/snow plow combination. The airport's ARFF Station will receive new exterior windows ahead of an interior remodel.

A large section of wildlife fencing will be constructed along Seven Mile Creek on the interior of the airport. The interior fence is badly needed to prevent white tailed deer from accessing the airfield along Seven Mile Creek. Repairs to wildlife fencing in other areas appear on the Momentum 2023 List of Projects also.

MOMENTUM 2023 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-imburement 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 \$246,301. The original DSEB established in 1997 by PTEL is \$205,900. Property tax rates are directly proportional to the EAV. To manage *Momentum 2023* 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 \$246,301. Doing so should keep the overall tax rate constant regardless of whether the EAV increases or

decreases. Therefore, the annual Bond and Interest Levy amount specified by Momentum 2023 will be \$205,900.

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 2019

With the exception of scheduled airline services, every other aspect of aviation is thriving at Mt. Vernon Outland Airport. Annual operations in calendar year 2018 were 26,030. Based aircraft tenancy is over 50, including ten multi engine aircraft, three helicopters, and one turbojet. Annual fuel sales exceed 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, Epilepsy Foundation of Southern Illinois, N-Sight Security Solutions, and Wheeler Construction Concepts, LLC are added, the on airport job total is more than 80 and the economic output is nearly \$11,000,000. ***With an Annual Tax Levy of \$329,000, the \$11,000,000 direct economic impact yields nearly 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.

Three Mt. Vernon Outland Airport Managers are in the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame!

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 407 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 in between. 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.

AIRGO International became the significant contributor to Mt. Vernon Outland Airport many thought it could. The international airline pilot training academy provides a large boost to the airport in the form of aircraft operations, tenancy, and fuel sales. AIRGO operates as many as eight single engine Cessna, two multi engine Piper, and two twin turboprop King Air aircraft. Twenty to thirty students are assigned to Mt. Vernon Outland Airport during most periods. As many as ten company employees are on site assisting the student with flight instruction, scheduling and aviation maintenance work.

The AIRGO program takes the student from zero time to Commercial Multi-Engine in 18 months. Graduates complete the curriculum with 20 hours of high altitude, twin turboprop training. Several months of Boeing 737 or Airbus A319/320 simulator training await the graduate upon returning to China. The final assignment – the cockpit of a China Southern Airliner.

Kash Helicopter Services provides agricultural spaying and heavy lift services using Bell 206 Jet Ranger and Bell UH1 “Huey” Helicopters. Located in the Community Hangar and Koziara Terminal, the company employs pilots, mechanics, schedulers, and ground workmen.

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 737’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.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY

In addition to the AIRGO Students, Mt. Vernon Outland Airport has contributed several professionals to the global airline industry. AIRGO’s instructor program itself is a pathway to a domestic airline pilot career, Ten KMVN based AIRGO Instructors left southern Illinois during the past two years and are now in the cockpit flying for domestic commuter airlines Envoy, GoJet, and PSA. On the aircraft maintenance side, SRT Aviation’s Airframe and Powerplant Maintenance Technician Apprentice Program graduated one mechanic over the previous twelve months. That A&P Mechanic left the airport and now works for American Eagle. A previous graduate is the Maintenance Manager for Cape Air.

EVENTS

Each September, the 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 make 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.

NATIONAL EXPOSURE

Mount Vernon Outland Airport was recognized on a national level on multiple occasions in the calendar year 2017. Events such as the Midwest LSA Expo and EAA AirVenture Cup Race garnered attention from the aviation community, and additional public exposure came from the total eclipse.

The remarkable November 2017 *AOPA Pilot* cover shot, titled “Total Eclipse,” captured by AOPA Senior Photographer Chris Rose, was connected to Mount Vernon Outland Airport through Eric Whyte, ONE Aviation Chief Demo Pilot. Whyte and AOPA’s Dave Hirschman conceived the idea of the total eclipse in the background of the Eclipse 550 Jet at Sun ‘n Fun in April. The pair chose Mount Vernon Outland Airport due to its close proximity to totality, and the nine page article mentions the airport on nearly every page. The November, 2017 edition of *EAA Sport Aviation* also featured an article covering the total eclipse, with several southern Illinois airports mentioned.



Midwest LSA Expo generated articles in the November 2017 *Powered Sport Flying* magazine and the December 2017 edition of *EAA Sport Aviation*. Mount Vernon Outland Airport Manager Chris Collins remarked about the recent media attention: “With so much going on in the aviation industry, it is a rare occurrence to be featured once in a national magazine. To be mentioned this many times in a single year is truly special!”

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, flight training, 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 2023* ensures Mt. Vernon Outland Airport’s infrastructure remains primed and ready for future growth.

Momentum 2023 Capital Development Plan

<u>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>LOCAL COST</u>	<u>STATE COST</u>	<u>FED. COST</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Wildlife	\$33,000			Local
New Snow Plow & Dump Truck	\$40,000			Local
Five Place Hangar (Building & Site Prep)	\$300,000			Local
New "T" Hangar Access Taxiway	\$18,750	\$18,750	\$181,890	Program Letter 6/17/16, \$155,610 Apport.
Interior Fence	\$8,334	\$8,334	\$150,000	Program Letter 7/31/18
Existing Fence Projects	\$20,000			Local
ARFF Station Upgrades	\$10,000			Local
Pave Perimeter Access Road	\$22,000	\$418,000	FY20 Request	State Apport.
Preserve Taxiway "E1"	\$12,500			Local
Rehab South Frontal Area	\$18,625	\$16,625	FY21 Request	State/Federal/Local
Replace Airfield Lighting - Phase I	\$40,250	\$40,250	FY22 Request	State/Federal/Local
Replace Airfield Lighting - Phase II	\$57,750	\$57,750	D/A Request	State/Federal/Local
LED Light Fixtures for Ramp	\$21,000			Local
Corporate Hangar Roof Seal	<u>\$15,500</u>			Local
	\$617,709			



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
15/16	\$0.0598	\$0.104	<i>\$0.1671</i>	\$196,516,065
16/17	\$0.0598	\$0.104	<i>\$0.1647</i>	\$197,357,717
17/18	\$0.060	\$0.100	<i>\$0.1608</i>	\$204,652,213