

# Airport gives update on road project

*The road will relieve  
wear and tear on airport  
vehicles*

**BY JOSH JONES**

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MOUNT VERNON — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners recently heard an update regarding a major interior access road project at the airport.

Chris Collins, airport director, said that the project is the rehabil-

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itation of the interior perimeter service road by placing asphalt. He estimated that the road is approximately a quarter of a mile long.

"It is essentially the road that is inside the fence that connects the western side of the airport to the eastern side," Collins said.

Collins said the project, which was approved for 2022, includes both state and federal funding.

"It is estimated to be a \$500,000 project. It is going to have a local match of \$25,000," Collins said. "There is a federal state apportionment fund grant for about \$150,000, which is basically a grant helping us to pay for the project. It carries \$300,000 of entitlement funds, which is money given to airports every year. We get \$148,500 a year for capital projects. So we are using two years of entitlement funding for this."

Collins said that the airport's fuel trucks travel two to four times a day across the airport and wear and tear on airport vehicles has been noticed.

"We are already seeing de-

terioration of our brand new jet fuel truck from taking it down that road," Collins said. "We have tried to maintain the road, but it is tough, service vehicles are meant to be on asphalt or concrete."

Collins said that the current road is made out of aggregate material including rock. He said he was reluctant at first to get this project started, but after witnessing the wear and tear on the vehicles saw it as necessary.

"It is difficult to comprehend that kind of money for a road that doesn't carry vehicular traffic, but it is important because it keeps vehicles off of the aircraft movement areas, when maintenance, first responders and service equipment are going from one side of the airport to another," Collins said. "I go to other airports and these roads on other airports are paved, so it is time for Mount Vernon's to be paved."

Board Chairman Marty Cox agreed that the road needs to be addressed.

"It is going to be really nice to have the thing paved instead of how it is right now," Cox said. "We are looking forward to getting it done."

Collins said that he did not see the project officially starting until the summer of 2022.

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