

# Update given on airport projects

*Air Evac Lifeteam 172 is now in operation*

**BY JOSH JONES**

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners recently heard an update regarding several ongoing projects at the airport.

Airport Director Chris Collins said that he received an update from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) that they had received one bid for the perimeter access road project. Collins said that IDOT asked him not to disclose the bidder or amount as negotiations are ongoing, but noted that the bid looks promising.

"The lone bid that was received for the project was significantly lower than the engineer's estimate so that project is a go and as soon they get all the contract negotiation stuff done then we will release who the winning bidder was and what the price was," Collins said.

According to Sentinel archives, the project involves the rehabilitation of the interior perimeter service road by placing asphalt. The road is used for public access during the airport's annual Salute to Freedom. Collins said he hopes for the project to be complete before July.

Collins said he met with representatives from KT Electric and Ameren regarding the Innovation Park utility update. According to Sentinel archives, the airport



**Chris Collins**

## Airport:

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accepted a bid of \$62,800 regarding the relocation of a transformer that is inside

the fence and in the way of any future development.

"Materials are in and I have to go out to the site and locate a conduit that we put underneath Firebaugh Drive back in 2013," Collins said. "The conduit is going

to carry the new Ameren supply under Firebaugh Drive."

Collins said that he has met with Hanson Professional Services and Architect Brian Edmison regarding filling out a preliminary

engineering report for an Economic Development Assistance (EDA) grant application, regarding the Innovation Park Hangar Two (Turbine Center) project. He said that currently the grant has a 20% local match

and an 80% federal match on it.

"The good news is that I have a couple of companies that have expressed interest in leasing an office in our new hangar," Collins said.

Collins said the temporary Air Evac Lifeteam 172 base is now in operation.

"They went live on (Feb. 4) and I know they made two patient flights," Collins said.

Collins said that people interested in knowing how active Lifeteam is can visit [www.flightaware.com](http://www.flightaware.com) and just type in MVN (the airport identifier) to see B407 and EC135 activity and all of their movements.

"I think people will be surprised when you see how much flying they do," Collins said. "We are excited to have Air Evac 172 join the family and they are up and serving Southern Illinois."

Collins said that Edmison also presented project estimates for the Air Evac 172 permanent base. He said that figures are not being released at this time as they are in the preliminary stages.

"We are hoping that everyone is pleased on both sides and everyone approves it so we can put this project out for bid," Collins said.

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