

Outland Airport parking lot project sees progress

Update also given on major lighting project

BY JOSH JONES

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MOUNT VERNON — The Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners recently heard that its stalled Koziara Terminal parking lot project has seen progress.

Airport Director Chris Collins said that a pre-design meeting for the project was held on March 3, where they discussed the scope of the project and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) bid schedule (letting). IDOT gave the airport options for the project to placed on the November or the January letting. Due to the surveying and engineering work that still needs to be completed the board selected the January option.

“With inflation, the cost of materials and everything, we are going to have it to where the main portion of the parking lot is going to be the base bid,” Collins said. “And that would be the entire parking lot for the terminal and all the feeder roads going to the apron gates, there are four of those and then what we call the T-hangar parking lot, which is that rectangular long parking lot that goes down toward the lake shore shelter. And then there are some various curbsings that are in really bad shape, they are going to be torn out and repaired.”



Chris Collins

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Collins said that there are two alternates for the project that depend on the cost of the base bid. At this time, cost estimates for the project were not available.

“Alternate one will be Aviation Drive and that is just a crack and fill and seal coat and then alternate two will be Firebaugh Drive, the roadway leading into Innovation Park,” Collins said. “We are hoping that we can pick up both of the alternates.”

Collins said at this time the board informed IDOT that they don’t believe that everything will be ready to begin construction in the fall.

“We just told them we would like it to be on the January 2024 letting and assuming we get some good bids after contract administration is done hopefully mid-summer 2024 is the construction timing,” Collins said. “The best news is that it is moving forward instead of sitting there.”

Collins also gave an update on a major lighting project noting that it has been placed on the April 2023 IDOT letting. The MVAA has been planning a major lighting replacement project that includes replacing lights on the primary runway, the cross runway and the taxiways at the airport. Original estimates had the airport paying a local share of \$98,000, but increases in the cost of materials and other factors has led to concerns that the local cost will be much more.

“Let’s just hope that bidders are plentiful and the FAA funds the project,” Collins said.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- The board is continuing to look at options for its Fixed Based Operations (FBO) building addition project.

- Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Chapter 1155 was awarded one of the \$11,000 James C. Ray Flight Training Scholarships. The program has EAA Chapters compete to award a scholarship to a “Ray Scholar” who they would help teach and mentor in the field of aviation. The scholarship was awarded to Nekoda Colvin.

- The board heard updates on various ongoing projects.

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