

Mount Vernon Airport looks at parking lot project

Project will likely be let out for bids this March

BY TRAVIS MORSE
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MOUNT VERNON — Mount Vernon Outland Airport officials say the letting of bids will likely take place this spring for a major rehabilitation project for the airport's parking lot.

The project in question, estimated at over \$1 million, is mostly being funded through the state's Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan. It was submitted for approval about two years ago, but was delayed because the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics is short-staffed and there are a lot of projects out there, said Mount Vernon Airport Director Chris Collins.

Collins gave an update on the parking lot project at a recent meeting of the Mount Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, Jan. 9. He said that the parking lot

project is now scheduled to be let out for bids by IDOT in March. The letting is the period when construction projects are available for bidding. During that time, contractors and groups can review and bid on projects, online sources state.

Hopefully, if everything goes as planned, construction on the parking lot project will start in the summer of 2024, but there could be delays and it may not start until the following summer, Collins said.

Collins said that 90% of the over \$1 million project will be funded through the state's Rebuild Illinois program, and the local share is 10%.

"We're very excited about this project," Collins said, later adding of the estimated cost, "That's a large number that ordinarily would have to be piece-mealed over a decade with our local funding, which would be bond sales. And now the project is going to be done (at) 10 cents on the dollar. Our local share is 10 percent."

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Collins explained that there is a base bid for the project but also three alternates that have additional work if there is funding provided to do it. He pointed out that the engineer's estimate is over \$1 million but that estimate was done in around 2021 and material costs have gone up since then.

The base bid project includes a rehabilitation of the airport's main parking lot, as well as the T-Hangar parking lot. It also includes small roads that extend to Gates 1 and 2.

Alternate 1, if it is funded, would add to the project seal-coating and crack-filling work on Aviation Drive.

Alternate 2 would involve milling off the old surface of Firebaugh



Chris Collins

Drive and replacing it with asphalt. And finally, Alternate 3 would be rehabilitating the roadway to Gateway 3 and the parking lots for SRT Aviation, the fixed base operations building.

In a perfect world, the bidding would result in the funding of the base bid and all three alternates but that will be dependent on how many bids are received and how competitive the bids are, Collins said.

"Our goal is to get the base (bid project) done and hope-

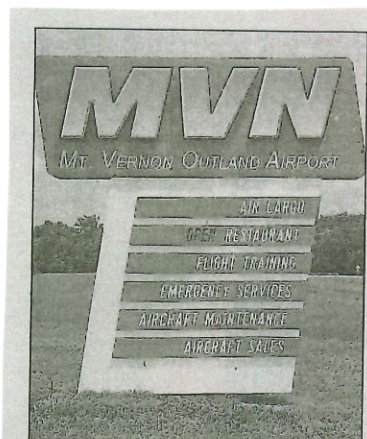
fully we (can) pick up one or two of the alternates," Collins said. "Hopefully, there are many competitive bids — many bidders and they're doing it competitively."

Other actions at Tuesday's Airport Board meeting included:

- Collins informed the board that the candidate for the second full-time flight instructor position at the airport has taken another job closer to home, so the search for a new candidate is ongoing.

- The board approved renewing the airport's property and equipment insurance policy. The new premium is \$33,994, an increase of \$3,275 over the prior year. However, the replacement value increased by 10%, from \$16.5 million in coverage to \$18.1 million in coverage.

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PARKING LOT PROJECT
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