

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

April 27, 2022

The Honorable David Price
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, &
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation,
Housing and Urban Development, &
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2023 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$7,000,000 in community project funding for the Cedar Rapids Airport Commission's Eastern Iowa Airport (CID) Taxiway Expansion Project, located at 2121 Arthur Collins Parkway SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

The Eastern Iowa Airport (CID) serves as an economic driver for the entire Eastern Iowa region, providing passenger airline, cargo, and general aviation service. CID is located in Iowa's second largest metropolitan area, Cedar Rapids, and is the second largest airport in the state. Data indicates that Eastern Iowa is a growing transportation hub and travel destination. CID is outpacing other airports in average recovery rates from the COVID-19 pandemic disruption and has served more passengers in the last nine months than in the same timeframe pre-pandemic, in 2018-2019.

This project is the first step in a large, multi-year expansion project at the Eastern Iowa Airport. These funds would be used to expand an existing taxiway and runway to an open area that will soon house a centralized deicing facility and on-site maintenance facility. The area is currently 40 acres of shovel-ready property with completed plans for renovation, but this phase cannot begin until the taxiway expansion timeline is finalized.

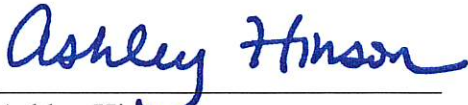
Both projects on the property will be built as the result of this taxiway expansion, significantly reducing environmental waste, enhancing safety, and improving the labor market at the airport. The deicing facility will dramatically reduce the environmental footprint of pavement required to contain aircraft deicing chemicals by eighty percent, from forty acres down to eight acres. This will reduce the amount of stormwater laden with deicing chemicals that the airport must capture, convey, and dispose of through the City of Cedar Rapids' sanitary sewer processing facility, thus improving water quality and saving taxpayer dollars.

Iowa aviation supports over 15,600 jobs, yet there is a constant shortage of FAA-certified aviation technicians. The new maintenance shop will be useful for the airport's own aircraft maintenance needs, but it will also double as a hands-on learning resource and future job opportunity space for students graduating from CID and Kirkwood Community College's joint Aviation Maintenance Technician program that is set to launch in 2023.

Overall, these projects will spark an economic boon and the airport will be empowered to create and recruit new business opportunities with family-sustaining jobs. Funding for this project would provide an essential first step for the larger plan that will strengthen the local educational opportunity and workforce. Jumpstarting these projects with funding for the taxiway expansion will also grow the airport into a more attractive hub for travel by empowering the airport to better accommodate its growing number of passengers, increasing both tourism and professional travel across Eastern Iowa.

This overall project has robust support from the City of Cedar Rapids and the greater metropolitan community. I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY23 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Committee on Appropriations