

Fairfield Municipal Airport 2006



The Fairfield Municipal Airport is in the final phases of a 5,500 foot precision approach runway construction project for business jet aircraft. 15 years ago the Airport Committee recognized that the 25 year old runway constructed in 1966 was going to need major reconstruction to eliminate maintenance costs. The business community was also expanding with companies that had national and global connections and they used business aircraft, including jets. A campaign to persuade the city government that a new runway was necessary began with a new Airport Master Plan. With this information the businesses and the community were educated to convince them of the need for a longer runway.

The Master Plan including a 5,500 foot runway was prepared in 1993. A Five Year Capital Improvement Program that included the runway proposal was presented to the FAA in 1994. Many meetings with the FAA in Kansas City and Washington D.C. and with our federal legislators

moved the process over the years. The support and assistance from the Aviation Department of IDOT has been extremely helpful and valuable.

The expert advice and planning by our engineering consultant firm Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. has made the process effortless.

The Fairfield Municipal Airport Committee, with the assistance of Airport Manager Robert Lyons, has had the responsibility for keeping the airport facility current. A long-range needs plan is continually revised. Through the financial grant programs of the Aviation Department of IDOT the original ramp has been reconstructed, an additional ramp expansion has tripled the space, a maintenance building has been constructed and improvements are being made to the terminal building and a corporate hanger. Included in the long-range plan is an additional maintenance building, a Ground Communications Outlet, new snow removal equipment, enlarging the parking lot, expanding ramp space for additional corporate hangers,

“Through the financial grant programs of the Aviation Department of IDOT the original ramp has been reconstructed, an additional ramp expansion has tripled the space, a maintenance building has been constructed and improvements are being made to the terminal building and a corporate hanger.”

lengthening and paving the east-west grass strip and updating the Airport Master Plan to be ready for the future.

Fairfield is a unique small city with a balanced manufacturing and business community. The city is not supported by one or two large employers alone. Many of the businesses are new technology based. Over 50 of the 350 local business members of the Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce could use the new runway.

The city and Jefferson County are in a renewal mode evidenced by the construction of the Jefferson County Civic Center, a Downtown Beautification Program, development of Cultural Districts, advancement of tourism by the Fairfield Convention and Visitors Bureau as well as the airport expansion. The Fairfield Economic Development Association, the Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the Fairfield Entrepreneurs Association have been leaders in airport and community expansion.

The Fairfield Municipal Airport is the front door to our business community. How it looks and how well it works is important to the future of the Fairfield community.

**Robert Glocke, Chair
Fairfield Municipal Airport
Committee**