



# **Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport**

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**Press Release**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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## **Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport Receives FAA and National Guard Bureau Funding to Replace Runway Touchdown Zone**

The Gulfport-Biloxi Airport Authority today announced the receipt of two grants worth \$5.5 million from the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program for the reconstruction of the runway touchdown zones at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport.

The reconstruction of the concrete touchdown zones at both ends of the main runway is part of a \$12 million project to improve the airport for commercial, general aviation and military flights at the Gulfport-Biloxi Airport.

"The touchdown zones are where aircraft make contact with the runway on landing and receive the most wear and tear of any pavement on the airfield," said Executive Director Clay Williams in describing the importance of the project.

In addition to the FAA funding, the National Guard Bureau is contributing \$6 million toward completion of the \$12 million project. Military operations at Gulfport-Biloxi Airport account for 43 percent of landings and take-offs at the airport.

"The Airport has worked closely with our tenants and airport users to coordinate the logistics of this important endeavor," said Gulfport-Biloxi Airport Authority Chairman Frank Genzer.

The contracts for construction are expected to be awarded in June. The construction will begin in July and is expected to be complete by the end of 2014.

U.S. Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, and Congressman Steven Palazzo reaffirmed their support for continued improvements at the airport as a hub for commercial and military flight operations.

"As a joint use airport, these grants will enhance safety for both the flying public and military aircraft that utilize Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport," Cochran said.

I am encouraged by the announcement of these grants to enhance future operations at the Gulfport-Biloxi Airport,” Wicker said. “Runway improvements will help keep the airport a convenient and safe transportation hub.”

“The Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport plays a crucial role servicing south Mississippi’s local tourism industry and our nation’s military,” Representative Palazzo noted. “These are the kinds of common-sense investments we should be making in local infrastructure.”

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