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***Gary / Chicago International Airport Ribbon Cutting  
Ceremony for East Corporate Hangar***

*Facility is Latest Enhancement to Region's Premier Mid-Sized Airport*

**(Gary, Indiana – August 16, 2019)** – This afternoon, dozens of aviation professionals and leaders from around the region participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the East Corporate Hangar at the Gary / Chicago International Airport (GYI). The grand opening for the 19,600 square foot \$2.5 million facility is the latest enhancement to the airport and further solidifies its position as the region's premier mid-sized airport. Indiana-based Sage-Popovich, Inc has signed a 10-year lease to occupy the new hangar.

"The opening of the East Corporate Hangar is the latest investment made to the airport over the past several years to solidify its role as a key economic engine," said **Timothy Fesko, Chairman of the GYI Authority Board**. "We are excited for the future, as this enhancement allows us to drive further growth and opportunities for the airport, its users and importantly, the region as well."

The GYI Airport Authority Board has set aggressive minimum local hiring standards for construction of new airport facilities, and the East Corporate Hangar exceeded those requirements. 22 trade contracts were awarded, and 22% these contracts went to companies with a pre-existing presence within the City of Gary, 16% of these went to firms within Porter County and 65% went to companies with a pre-existing presence within Lake County.

"The East Corporate Hangar continues our efforts to attract corporate and general aviation users to the airport," added **Duane Hayden, Executive Director for GYI**. "The hangar symbolizes the continued momentum built over the past several years to position ourselves as the airport of choice among corporate executives."

The opening of the East Corporate Hangar follows other high-profile enhancements to GYI over the past several years. In 2018, the airport opened its permanent General Aviation U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facility, allowing air travelers to fly into Gary from any destination in the world without first needing to stop elsewhere to clear customs.

In 2015, the airport extended the main runway to nearly 9,000 feet and GYI boasts the second longest runway in the region after O'Hare International. The main runway allows for substantially larger planes to utilize the airport, up to and including a 777. Since then, airport operations are up by nearly 15 percent, fuel flowage revenue is up 82 percent and landing fee revenue is up by over 140 percent.

**-Cont-**

## ***Gary / Chicago International Airport Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for East Corporate Hangar (cont.)***

“I would like to offer a well-deserved congratulations to Airport Chairman Tim Fesko, Airport Director Duane Hayden and the entire project team for their success this afternoon. The growth of our facilities and the continued inquiries from corporate and commercial interests confirm our vision of the airport as a critical economic engine,” noted **Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson of the City of Gary**. “Investments in facilities such as the East Corporate Hangar allows the airport to continue asserting itself as the premier mid-size airport in the Chicagoland Metropolitan Area.”

The completion of the East Corporate Hangar follows several other investments and major service enhancements in a series of capital improvements at the airport. These include:

- Gary Jet Center opens a new \$5 million LEED-certified hangar **(2014)**
- B. Coleman opens a new \$9 million state-of-the-art terminal and flight support facility (2014)
- GYY completes extension of the main runway from 7,000 to 8,859 feet **(2015)**
- B. Coleman announces 7-year year, up to \$20 million expansion plans **(2016)**
- Gary Jet Center opens new \$3 million terminal and administrative offices **(2017)**
- B. Coleman opens new \$5 million 40,000 square foot hangar **(2017)**
- GYY Authority Board approves construction of new \$2.5 million East Corporate Hangar **(2018)**
- U.S. Customs & Border Protection Facility opens allowing nonstop international flights **(2018)**
- Updated Master Planning process launches **(expected completion in 2019)**

“Having been a tenant for the past quarter-century, we have witnessed first-hand the continuing growth and investment of the airport and the positive impact it has had on Northwest Indiana,” said Nick Popovich of Sage-Popovich, Inc. “We applaud the vision of Mayor Freeman-Wilson, Board Chairman Fesko, Director Hayden and former Director Dan Vicari in their ongoing effort to modernize the airport, and we are pleased to continue partnering with the airport.”

### ***About Gary/Chicago International Airport***

*Located minutes from the shores of Lake Michigan and just 25 miles from downtown Chicago, Gary/Chicago International Airport (GYY) is a full-service airport and a premiere destination for corporate and weekend flyers in the Chicago metropolitan region and Northwest Indiana. To learn more, please visit the airport’s website at [www.FlyGYY.com](http://www.FlyGYY.com) or follow it on Twitter [@GaryChiAirport](https://twitter.com/GaryChiAirport) and on Facebook [@gciairport](https://www.facebook.com/gciairport).*

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