



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Adam Gypalo

312-768-4730 (office)

adam.gypalo@resolutepublicaffairs.com

Gary / Chicago International Airport Receives Significant Federal Grant

\$3.5 Million Grant Provides Funding Completing Rehabilitation of Region's 2nd Longest Runway

(Gary, IN – June 1st, 2021) – This morning, City of Gary Mayor Jerome Prince, U.S. Representative Frank J. Mrvan (D-1st), and representatives of the Gary / Chicago International Airport (GCIAG) announced a \$3.5 million U.S. Department of Transportation federal grant awarded to the airport during a press conference. The grant marks a critical component to the completion of multiple years and phases of a long-needed rehabilitation of the airport's main runway, parallel Taxiway A, and aprons, and will provide support for the airport's tenants and current operations.

"This rehabilitation project is the latest in a series of improvements to increase the airport's service capabilities, enhance the passenger and user experience, and maximize GCIAG's current infrastructure and assets," **said GCIAG Authority Chairman Timothy Fesko**. "Securing this federal funding is the culmination of years of hard work and effort, and I look forward to the tremendous growth and improvements that will continue to occur at GCIAG in the years to come."

The federal grant will provide for a 14-inch concrete overlay over a 75-foot-wide by 3,450-foot-long portion of the airport's taxiway and will extend the life of the airport's pavement by at least 20 years. Additionally, the federal funding will provide greater support for the airport's current tenants, including its newest UPS tenant, and their operations, as well as support for future traffic forecasts that will continue to fuel GCIAG's growth and reach over the coming years.

"I congratulate Gary Mayor Jerome Prince, the Gary / Chicago International Airport Board Members and staff, and everyone involved who helped support the efforts to secure the federal resources that we are celebrating today," **said Congressman Mrvan**. "This investment will put people to work, enhance this valuable asset, and benefit our entire region. I will continue to look for opportunities to promote investments in our infrastructure and create an economy that works for everyone."

"Today's announcement of the \$3.5 million grant from the Department of Transportation represents another step forward for the Gary-Chicago International Airport, the City of Gary, and Hoosiers in Northwest Indiana," **said Senator Mike Braun (R-IN)**. "I've been proud to work with Congressman Mrvan, Mayor Prince, Chairman Fesko and everyone who has been involved in this process to create opportunity and promote job creation in the region."

"This is an exciting time for the Gary/Chicago International Airport and Authority, the City of Gary and Northwest Indiana," **said Gary Mayor Jerome A. Prince**. "We look forward to the airport continuing to increase its capacity for future operations growth, creating local jobs and driving regional economic investment in the coming years."



Gary / Chicago International Airport Receives Significant Federal Grant (Cont).

“This rehabilitation project is another key milestone for the airport as we continue to increase our capacity and fulfill our role as a critical component in the Chicago and Northwest Indiana regional air system,” **said Duane Hayden, Executive Director of GCI A.** “The federal award comes during a period of sustained growth, substantial public and private investment, and critical infrastructure improvements at our airport and I am grateful for all those who played a part in securing this important source of funding.”

Among the recent improvements at GCI A is last year’s formal agreement with United Parcel Service (UPS) to begin express air shipment operations at the airport. Each weeknight, UPS aircraft depart GCI A for the company’s global air hub in Louisville, KY, carrying thousands of express packages for sortation and movement to destinations around the globe. The agreement also includes 14,000 square feet of office space in the airport’s passenger terminal as well as a 150,000 square foot ramp. The airport’s partnership with UPS provides greater capacity and flexibility for the region’s businesses and expands the current mail, cargo, and commerce operations at GCI A.

Other improvements include the 2015 expansion of the airport’s main runway to nearly 9,000 feet in length, making it the 2nd longest in the region after O’Hare International Airport, as well as the 2018 opening of the state-of-the-art U.S. Customs and Border Protection Facility, allowing international air travel without needing to clear customs elsewhere. These improvements have enabled GCI A to serve as a critical partner for Midway International and O’Hare International Airport in servicing cargo and private operations for the region.

About Gary/Chicago International Airport

Located minutes from the shores of Lake Michigan and just 25 miles from downtown Chicago, Gary/Chicago International Airport (GCI A) is a full-service airport and a premiere destination for corporate and weekend flyers in the Chicago metropolitan region and Northwest Indiana. In 2020, UPS began its Next Day Air Service operations at GCI A. To learn more, visit the airport’s new website at FlyGYY.com.

###