

# Airport terminal expansion moves ahead with \$6.5 million grant

MidAmerica St. Louis Airport is moving forward on a key phase of its planned terminal expansion thanks to nearly \$6.5 million in grant funding recently awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The funds, awarded through the Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program, will be used for a variety of critical infrastructure and safety improvement projects to enhance overall operations at the airport, which was seeing significant passenger growth year-over-year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to operate as a joint-use airport with Scott Air Force Base.

“Passengers have grown from 63,000 total passengers in 2015 to over 300,000 total passengers in 2019, and given our focus on serving the leisure travel market, we fully expect to get back on our growth trajectory once the COVID-19 pandemic has passed and passengers return to the skies,” Bryan Johnson, airport director for MidAmerica St. Louis Airport, said this fall. “This grant is great news for MidAmerica St. Louis Airport and for Southern Illinois as the FAA, state and local leaders recognize the importance of modifying and improving our passenger terminal building to support the regular increase we’ve been seeing in passenger growth.”

With the allotted funds, MidAmerica Airport will expand the existing 53,500-square-foot terminal by an additional 41,000-plus square feet under Phase Two of its four-phase Passenger Terminal Modification project. This phase of the project will create a standard TSA screening area, two additional second-level boarding bridges, a service animal relief area, new family restrooms and a nursing room. The grant funding will



Renderings of planned work. Among changes are creation of a standard TSA screening area and enhancements to the current departure lounge.

also provide ADA enhancements for individuals with disabilities to Gate 2 and the security checkpoint, as well as expand the current departure lounge and build added space for concessions.

St. Clair County Chairman Mark Kern

said previously that preventative measures put in place by MidAmerica Airport and its airline partner have made passenger travel safer.

Construction for Phase Two will get underway within the next 60 days, with

the expected completion date to be just under 12 months. Phase Two is the largest phase of the project and will include the building shell (foundations, walls, roof) and the initial rough in of interior systems (electrical, fire protection, plumbing, etc.). Funding for the final two phases is being programmed by the FAA and Illinois Development Authority and each should take about 12 months, with final completion of the entire project expected in late 2023.

MidAmerica St. Louis Airport is located in Mascoutah. Passenger service to almost a dozen different destinations is offered by Allegiant. Major multimodal rail and inland port centers are located within 22 miles of the airport, which also enjoys easy access to five interstate highways via I-64. With parallel runways of 8,000 and 10,000 feet, the airport can handle simultaneous take-offs and landings in all conditions, minimizing delays. It has an annual capacity of 200,000 operations. Tenants include Boeing, which has a manufacturing facility at the airport; North Bay Produce, an international, grower-owned, year-round, fresh produce marketing and distribution cooperative headquartered in Traverse City, Mich., as well as AVMATS, a company providing alternatives for the support and maintenance of corporate aircraft, which has been operating at MidAmerica for many years. MidAmerica is a joint use airport partnering with Scott AFB, the home to U.S. Transportation Command, a multi service organization, and Air Mobility Command, the USAF’s component command for airlift. MidAmerica and the 375th Air Mobility Wing operate Scott AFB/MidAmerica St. Louis Airport.



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