



PORT OF KENNEWICK

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At A Glance:

Who.....Port of Kennewick

What..... Airport Aid Grant Awarded to Vista Field

Quick Facts:

The Port of Kennewick will receive \$140,500 from the WA State Dept. of Transportation Aviation Division for pavement maintenance at their Vista Field general aviation airport in Kennewick, WA. The Port of Kennewick will provide \$17,500 in matching funds to the state aviation grant. The \$158,000 total grant project will enable the port to crack seal, seal coat, and repaint markings at the airport, which is designated as an essential public facility.

Port of Kennewick Receives \$158,000 Aviation Aid Grant *Project will maintain and enhance essential public facility*

Kennewick, Wash.—The Port of Kennewick has been awarded a \$158,000 grant for a pavement maintenance project at the Vista Field Airport. Regular maintenance projects are essential to preserving the condition of airport pavements and prolonging the return on substantial infrastructure investments previously made by the port commission. A need to crack seal, seal coat, and repaint the pavement was identified as a first priority following the port commission's adoption of an updated Vista Field Airport Master Plan in the spring of 2011. The grant funds will be used to preserve the existing pavement and prevent deterioration of the taxiway and apron areas.

The Washington State Department of Transportation will provide \$140,500 through their Aviation Aid grant program, and the port will match the grant with \$17,500 in local funds. According to port officials, some non-essential maintenance projects were delayed in recent years due to the previously uncertain future of the Kennewick Airport. The Port of Kennewick's Board of Commissioners voted to retain Vista Field as a general aviation airport last year. Earlier this year, the commission adopted the 2011 Vista Field master plan and identified a timeline for implementing essential capital improvements.

Tim Arntzen, port executive director indicated that this latest grant is another step

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toward ensuring that the Vista Field Airport is attractive to private investment and future use. “First, we applied for and received a state grant to update the airport master plan, and now we’ve secured funding to make paving improvements. That’s exactly what the master plan outlined,” stated Tim Arntzen, port executive director. “We identified the needs, and now, port staff are systematically working to ensure that Vista Field is open and operating for the benefit of the port district and our citizen taxpayers.”

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The Port of Kennewick is developing assets to create sustainable family wage jobs, user friendly transportation systems, and quality of life enhancements for visitors and residents of the Port district.