



**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**CITY OF ST.GEORGE RECIEVES GRANT FOR MARKETING AS RUNWAY PAVING  
CONTINUES**

**St. George, UT.-** With a January 2011 grand opening date scheduled for the St. George Replacement Airport, contractors are now laying asphalt on taxiways and surface streets as the airport fire station gets underway along with continued terminal building construction. Although there is still much to do on the project, this winter marked a number of milestones for the airport as public tours of the project allowed hundreds of area residents a firsthand look at construction progress.

At the Washington County Economic Summit earlier this year, hundreds of attendees boarded guided bus tours for a look at the city's largest project in its 148 year history. "Feedback from the tours was extremely positive so much so that we (the city) have decided to plan more tours through the end of the project," said Public Works Director, Larry Bulloch. Councilman Jon Pike added, "The more people we can educate about the new airport the better off we'll all be as a community. You have to see it to really appreciate the fore thought, planning and magnitude of the project. I hope residents will take the opportunity to tour the airport during construction." Subsequent tours have included Dixie State College dignitaries, Washington City officials, Dixie transportation attendees, airport managers association, Washington County Economic Development Council, general public and various business and media representatives. More tours are planned and will be publicly announced this spring and summer.

In late February the City was awarded a \$100,000 Small Community Air Service Development grant from the United States Department of Transportation. St. George was the only city in Utah and one of 19 airports nationwide to receive funding out of the 84 that submitted proposals in August, 2009. The grant is designed to assist underserved airports to improve air service in terms of the cost and availability of such service through marketing and promotion and enhanced utilization of airport facilities.

St. George plans to use the funding to create a business plan that will identify business opportunities for the replacement airport from commercial air service to freight related businesses. A marketing plan will also be funded to assist with business recruitment efforts and develop strategies and programs to support current air service and attract new air service.

As runway paving is wraps up in April asphalt crews will shift focus on paving taxiways and ramp areas. The Federal Aviation Administration plans to conduct a survey of the runway this spring followed by approach instrumentation testing by the end of the year. Construction of the General Aviation side of the airport will begin this summer with over 70 hangars slated to be built. This represents nearly all private hangar owners currently leasing land at the existing airport.

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