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Extended Runway Dedicated at Philadelphia International Airport

Longer runway cuts delays, reduces emissions and supports business

An extended runway that is improving operations at one of the nation's busiest airports was dedicated on May 8th at Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). Runway 17-35 was lengthened by 1,040 feet to 6,500 feet for increasing its use by regional jets and narrow body aircraft. The runway is already cutting delays, reducing emissions and saving airlines millions. It is projected that the increased airfield capacity created by the lengthened runway will reduce delays at PHL by 11,480 hours in the next year. Improving operations decreases aircraft idle time on taxiways, reducing emissions and saving fuel. The benefits are cleaner air and lower operating costs for airlines.

"Philadelphia International Airport is an economic engine for the entire Delaware Valley. The extension of Runway 17-35 represents the kind of smart public investment that will keep this engine humming, benefiting the entire region for decades to come," noted Mayor Michael A. Nutter. "Now that larger aircraft can make greater use of a third runway at the Airport, it's expected that aircraft operations will run more efficiently, which will ultimately benefit both the airlines and the flying public."

Rina Cutler, Deputy Mayor, Transportation and Utilities added, "The region depends on Philadelphia International Airport to remain globally competitive. This runway extension is projected to save airlines \$20 million a year in aircraft direct operating costs and generate a net savings in passenger time, valued at \$29 million annually. These significant cost reductions keep the airport and region competitive, as we move through a difficult economic climate."

The runway extension project cost approximately \$70 million. Most of the funding - \$42.5 million - came through FAA Airport Improvement Program grant funds to the City; the Airport also received \$5.4 million in state funding.

"The extended runway gives the Airport more flexibility in managing airfield operations," noted Mark Gale, Acting Director of Aviation. "If one of the two primary runways need to be taken out of service for any reason such as construction, maintenance or snow removal, Runway 17-35 can now handle many of those planes that require a longer runway to operate." Noted Carmine Gallo, Regional Administrator for the FAA's Eastern Region, "These kinds of airfield improvement projects, which exemplify FAA's strong commitment toward improving the

infrastructure of the national airspace system, create immediate benefits, not only for the FAA but also for airport operators such as the City of Philadelphia."

Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$14 billion in spending to the regional economy and employing a workforce of nearly 42,000.

Visit the official Philadelphia International Airport website at www.phl.org