

For Immediate Release

July 9, 2019

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FAA awards almost \$1.5 million for Morrisville-Stowe airport improvement

Montpelier, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) will receive nearly \$1.5 million in federal funds for a runway extension at the Morrisville-Stowe State Airport that will improve safety and could have a significant impact on that airport's usage.

In a joint statement, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), and Representative Peter Welch (D-Vt.) said, "This funding will enable Vermont to improve safety at one of our busiest airports used by local pilots as well as visitors from out of state. Safe airports with active private and commercial use are a vital part of Vermont's transportation infrastructure. We will continue to advocate in Washington for federal investment in Vermont's aviation system."

The project will add 250 feet of pavement to the safety areas at each end of the current runway. For most general aviation pilots, this will add 500 feet more for use on departure, which could potentially allow for an increase in the number of passengers or the payload that they can carry. The safety areas are currently grass; pavement is safer in the event that pilots need to extend past the end of the runway into the safety areas.

"The Morrisville-Stowe Airport is a vital part of the state aviation system, and I appreciate our Congressional delegation's commitment to improving and strengthening our airports and related infrastructure," said Governor Phil Scott. "These changes will have a direct effect on economic development opportunities, as we continue to work to grow the economy."

The total project cost is estimated at \$1,662,213, which includes \$1,495,992 in federal funds and \$166,221 in state funds. The federal funding is part of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) 2018-2020 Supplemental Appropriation.

"We are always focused on increasing safety, and this runway extension will make the airport safer and provide greater opportunities for pilots," said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn.

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