

Chicago Rockford International Airport Cargo Expansion Project

Facts and Figures

Overall Economic Impact of the Chicago Rockford International Airport to the Region:

- Chicago Rockford International Airport (RFD) is one of the largest economic engines for the Rock River Valley and Northern Illinois.
 - Home to over 70 businesses/tenants
 - Currently on airport totals **more than 8,000 skilled jobs** in aviation, transportation, logistics, and construction.
 - **RFD and its tenants contribute millions of dollars in real estate taxes** each year that directly fund Police, Fire, Schools, Roads, and other necessary governmental services.
- RFD and its partners create **billions of dollars** in economic impact to the region's economy on an annual basis. That economic impact will continue to add exponentially with new and future projects, such as the current \$50 million air cargo expansion – which is 65% complete – to the region's economic vitality.
- Among the many projects the Airport and its partners have announced and/or achieved recently include the construction of this new \$50 million international cargo center, the AAR/United Airlines partnership, the \$19 million UPS ramp expansion, and a new Amazon Air Hub.
- **In the past year**, RFD and its partners have created over **1,000 new private industry jobs**, bringing the total jobs on the airport campus to over 8,000. These jobs represent irreplaceable contributions that directly impact family households and local businesses by billions of dollars each year.
- Over the past few years **more than \$225 million** has been invested in infrastructure improvements and facilities at RFD.
- The \$50 million cargo center expansion is just one part of the Airport's ongoing development projects to support its increased cargo activity. The ongoing growth will continue to positively impact the region's economic development and our residents' taxes/return on investment (ROI).
- According to US Trade Numbers which tracks and reports different trade markets across the nation, **approximately \$2.1 billion in import/export products have traveled through RFD** during the first three quarters 2021. This is all new business to RFD in the last 18 months.

- Fifteen different international airlines have begun service to and from RFD over the past six months (listed below) and are currently servicing the new International Cargo Center. Flights have grown in the last 18 months from eight monthly to over 100 monthly.

1. Atlas Air
2. National Airlines
3. Korean Air
4. Qatar Airlines
5. Emirates
6. Kalitta Air
7. Air Atlanta Icelandic
8. Air Belgium
9. ASL Belgium
10. ACT Airlines
11. Smartlynx
12. Wamos
13. Maleth Aero
14. HiFly Malta
15. Jet X One

Overview of Phase I - \$50 Million Cargo Expansion Project

- The construction of the new \$50 million cargo expansion project – **which is 65% complete**:
 - Has created hundreds of construction jobs
 - **Has generated 200 of the 600 permanent new jobs anticipated** at the airport
 - Continues to add to growth of the region's strength in worldwide international cargo operations

The cargo expansion project includes:

- A recently completed 90,000-square-foot international cargo center (currently being used) designed to accommodate daily multiple aircraft landings and departures containing international import and export freight.
 - An additional 100,000 square-foot international cargo facility, which is currently under construction and set to come online next spring.
 - A new airplane ramp to accommodate six 747 aircraft.
 - A new road that will extend off Cessna Drive to accommodate an anticipated thousands of tractor/trailer traffic monthly to and from the facility.
- The **land for the first phase of the new international cargo area (\$50 million) project is solely owned by the Authority** and designated for airport use for expansion of facilities and runways.

Cargo Expansion Project Timeline

Throughout numerous expansion and economic development initiatives, including this Phase I project, RFD has consistently demonstrated a responsibility for, and awareness of, potential environmental impacts.

2019:

- Held PUBLIC MEETINGS and provided PUBLIC NOTICES at which there were no objections, nor voiced concerns or insight from any related groups
- RFD completed a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Environmental Assessment as required by Federal statute and received a “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI)

2019-current:

- RFD continues to follow all guidelines and rules set forth by the FAA, Federal, state, and local government

2021:

- RFD is coordinating with the FAA, US Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) regarding a sighting of one Federally Endangered Rusty Patched Bumblebee that was recorded in the vicinity of project. In consultation with all agencies, RFD voluntarily paused all work in the area to accommodate the bee foraging season. Additionally, the FAA has re-initiated Section 7 consultation, and the airport has paused the road construction on the prairie area until the consultation is concluded.
- RFD is working with the IDNR on a field survey and the relocation of two state endangered plant species (large-flowered beard tongue and prairie dandelion). RFD also agreed to allow IDNR remove and transplant these specific plants, along with the prairie gentian, prairie smoke, prickly pear, aromatic aster, and bastard toadflax prior to continuing construction.
- After approval from all necessary agencies, in April 2021, RFD sold \$50 million in Alternate Review Bonds to help finance the project. The bonds are repaid by revenues generated at RFD and not by any taxes levied by RFD.
- RFD is restricting any outside access to airport property at the site of the Phase I expansion to protect the integrity of Airport-owned property to ensure preservation of airport land and to ensure safety during the busiest season of cargo operations.

2022:

- Planned resumption of construction is estimated to begin in the spring of 2022 or sooner.