

# Vermont's BTV gets \$12.75 million in federal grants

**Fri Sep 11 2009**

US Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) joined Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss and officials from Burlington International Airport (BTV) Friday afternoon at the airport to announce \$12.75 million in Federal Aviation Administration airport improvement grants. Leahy, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, directly secured more than \$1.5 million for the projects, with the rest provided through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“stimulus package”) grants and competitive FAA grants.

Leahy said the funds will be used to upgrade taxiways and runways leading to the airport’s new South End Development; to acquire land around the airport to mitigate noise and help with development projects; and to install new energy efficient runway lights. The South End Development project will help existing aviation-related businesses already housed at the airport and attract new business opportunities, Leahy said.

During Friday afternoon’s news conference, Leahy and Kiss highlighted the job growth and economic development brought about by the large federal investment in Burlington.

“Investing in infrastructure at one of our key commercial crossroads makes sense anytime, and it is doubly useful as we work to restart the nation’s economy,” said Leahy. “These are good Vermont jobs today that will lay the groundwork for more good Vermont jobs tomorrow. These significant improvements will help the airport better serve businesses and travelers and will lead to real job growth here in Vermont. I applaud the City of Burlington and the airport for producing a forward-thinking development plan that allowed us to be ready to take advantage of these investments.”

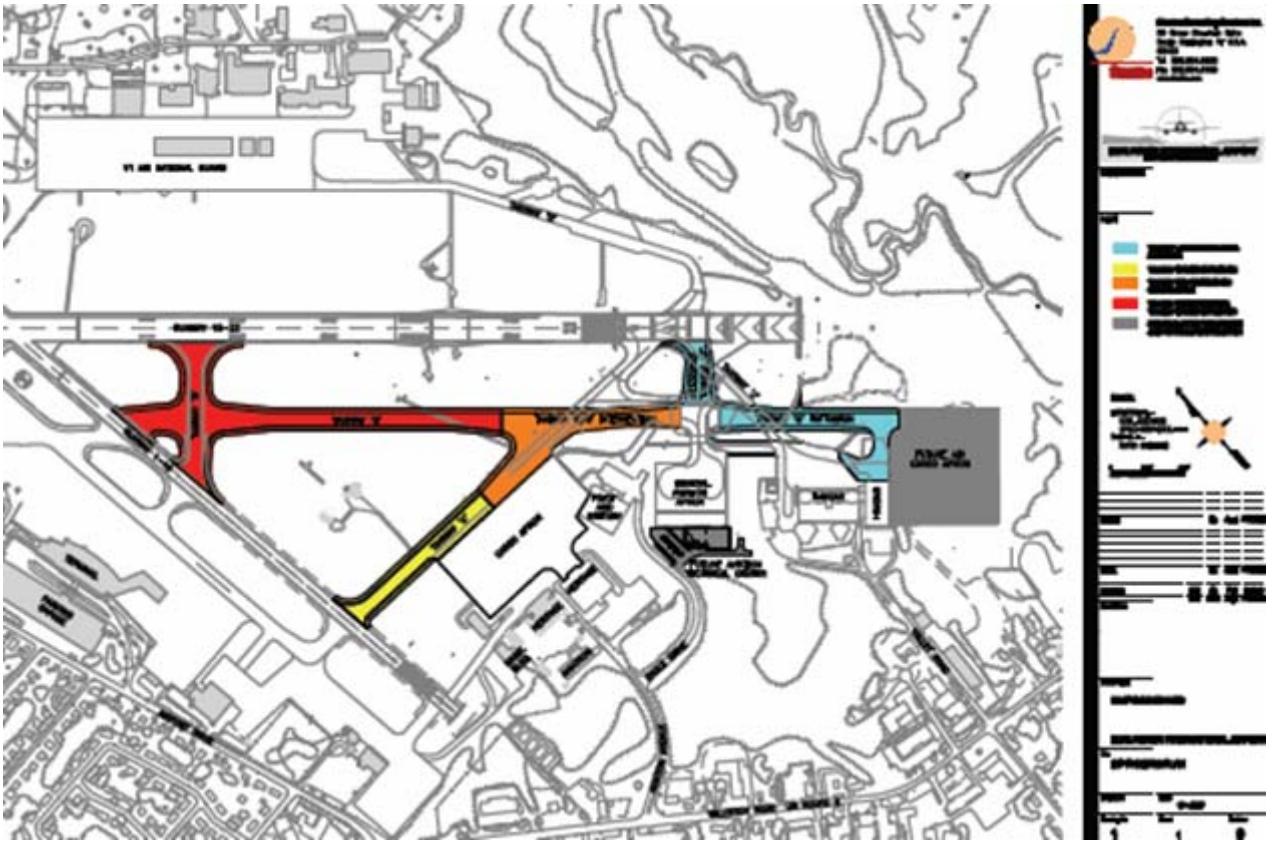
Kiss emphasized the significance of these projects to growing this segment of the airport and enhancing its role as a premier economic engine for the region. “Thank you to Senator Leahy for his ongoing support for important projects such as these — which allow for real growth in key areas at Burlington International Airport,” said Kiss. “As we know, the airport is central to the greater Burlington area and region’s economic vitality.”

According to airport officials, the airport is taking major steps toward completion of a multi-phased South End Development with \$7 million in new funding through the FAA, including:

- Shown in blue on the map below, construction of taxiway “J” and additional work on the taxiway “G” extension to the south will provide access to new commercial development at the south end of the airport.
- Shown in orange on the map below, reconstruction of the intersection of taxiway “C” and “G” and extension of taxiway “G” south to a new taxiway “J” will serve the new general aviation apron now nearing completion.
- Shown in yellow on the map below, reconstruction of taxiway “C” west to the intersection with runway 1-19 to upgrade one of the oldest segments of pavement at the airport.

The airport also will receive \$5.2 million in federal funds to continue expansion plans through the FAA’s Land Acquisition and Relocation Assistance Program. This federal program allows airports to acquire adjacent land for needed airport development and noise compatibility projects.

In addition, the airport will receive \$549,000 in federal funds to upgrade its taxiway lighting to energy efficient light emitting diode (LED) fixtures. This project will reduce energy costs significantly and eliminate time-consuming maintenance on the airport’s lighting system.



Source: Leahy's office. 9.12.2009