



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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June 30, 2009

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Transportation: Governor's Section 13.10 Request for the Use of Federal Economic Stimulus Funding for Airport Improvement Projects -- Agenda Item VI

REQUEST

The Governor requests approval for the expenditure of \$2,426,380 in federal economic stimulus funds for two airport improvement projects, as follows: (a) \$1,254,105 for the rehabilitation of taxiways A, B, and D at the Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport; and (b) \$1,172,275 for the rehabilitation of runway 18/36 at the Austin Straubel International Airport in Green Bay.

BACKGROUND

The federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides \$1.1 billion nationwide for capital improvement projects at airports. Funds are awarded to projects by the Federal Aviation Administration on a discretionary basis, with priority given to projects that can be completed within two years and that would not otherwise be done with state and local funding during that time period. Project awards are done on a staggered basis, with a requirement that at least 50% of the funding be awarded within 120 days of enactment.

The two projects included in the Governor's request were awarded funding by the Federal Aviation Administration under this program and were chosen from the state's airport improvement program list after making a determination that they would not have otherwise been funded during 2009. These are the second phase of two projects that were approved for funding by the Committee on April 21, 2009, under an earlier request.

CONCLUSION

The Governor's request for the use of \$2,426,380 in federal economic stimulus funds for airport projects satisfies a requirement in 2009 Wisconsin Act 2 that a plan be submitted to the Committee for the expenditure of such funds. Since the funding was awarded by the federal government for two specific projects, no alternative uses of the airport funds are possible under the federal program.

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