



EASTON AIRPORT

AVIATION GATEWAY TO THE EASTERN SHORE

29051 CORKRAN RD, EASTON, MD 21601 PHONE: 410.770.8055 FAX: 410.822.8694 WWW.EASTONAIRPORT.COM

MEMORANDUM

TO: CLAY STAMP, COUNTY MANAGER
FROM: MICAH RISHER, AIRPORT MANAGER
DATE: DECEMBER 2, 2024
RE: FAA REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENT FOR REPLACEMENT OF RUNWAY 4 ILS

BACKGROUND

The Instrument Landing System (ILS) is a radio navigation system that helps pilots land aircraft safely. It is essential for operating in low visibility, at night, or in bad weather conditions. The system uses two radio beams to provide pilots with vertical and horizontal guidance during a landing approach as well as equipment that emits distance information. These components are referred to as Localizer, Glideslope and DME.

Easton Airport's current ILS is over 50 years old, and service has degraded in recent years. At times, aircraft cannot land here due to the current limitations of our older system. As part of the Airfield Modernization Program, we are working with FAA to install a newer, more capable system with a goal to have it operational to coincide with the opening of the new Runway in October 2026.

The ILS is owned by the FAA and they must install and certify the equipment. This is a great deal for us as we provide a "no cost lease" to them and they provide all the maintenance, pay the electric bill and keep the system running. For construction though, we must forward fund the costs and then seek reimbursement.

REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENT

For these types of projects, FAA enters in Reimbursable Agreements (RA) with Airport Sponsors. This arrangement is standard across the country, and we have executed a few of these in the past, most recently we executed a Design Review RA last year and were immediately reimbursed. The FAA is a very large organizations and their departments do not share funds. We essentially must pay the FAA NAS Planning Group to install the new ILS and then turn around and request reimbursement from the Washington Airport District Office, which is the office that issues our annual AIP Grants.

The total cost of the Construction Reimbursable Agreement is \$602,706.05, which will be fully funded by Airport Funds and will not have any adverse impact on the current budget.

TIMING - WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT NOW

The Airfield Modernization Program is a large, dynamic project and sometimes it is a challenge to synchronize our local budget planning with our Federal and State partners. Particularly in this case with the ILS. We have been working with the FAA for more than two years to develop a plan to install this new ILS.

We have reached the point where we have a solid plan that will allow FAA to procure, install and certify the new ILS at Easton Airport. Moving forward with the agreement now will allow enough time to have the ILS operational to coincide with the opening of the new Runway in 2026. This will provide the safest, most efficient operation possible and the best service for users of Easton Airport.

FUNDING

Once Easton Airport funds the total cost of the agreement (\$602,706.05), we will seek reimbursement through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Airport Improvement Grant Program (*we are guaranteed approximately \$750,000 in 2025 by law*). We are actively planning our Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) with FAA.

FAA recently announced that all grants will be funded at 95% for the next two years. This is great timing for our project as we are in the midst of the costliest construction. This will help reduce our actual costs to just 2.5% as the MAA will pay 2.5% of total costs as well.

After all FAA and MAA reimbursements are received, the total cost to Easton Airport for this agreement will be just \$15,067.65.

I recommend approval of the Reimbursable Agreement to replace the ILS at Easton Airport.

Thank you,



Micah Risher
Airport Manager