



PRESS RELEASE

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ERAA Awards Construction Bid Runway Expansion Phase Ready to Take Flight

Survey, backhoe and off highway equipment will begin to make way for electrical, lighting and Navigational Aid installers responsible for placing the sophisticated electronic equipment that will guide aircraft as they take off and land at Erie International Airport, Tom Ridge Field.

At a regularly scheduled monthly meeting, Erie Regional Airport Authority (ERAA) voted to award Kirila Contractors Inc. of Bedford, Ohio the contract for the 1,920 expansion of the existing runway. Engineers, planners, construction workers, contractors and suppliers are gearing up to work in the same foot print of workers responsible for the development of the storm-water management system and the relocation of Powell Avenue in the first construction phase of the project.

Chris Rodgers, Executive Director for the ERAA explains that consultants and contractors are now working with the end stages in sight. “Critical electrical staging, such as the installation of localizers and instrument landing systems are all a part of this phase of the project. And while there will be considerable excavation and trucking still going on, the FAA will obviously have inspectors on hand to ensure that precision work ensures flight safety”.

In fact, there will be literally tons of earth removal going on in the area east of the existing Powell Avenue between West 14th and West 20th street. If you travel along the state highway you can see large equipment digging drainage ditches and preparing for the relocation of the roadway. “A lot of the focus of this project is on the work that you see all the time when you pass by”, Rodgers Said. “There are also very important elements of the project that you don’t see, such as the relocation of utilities necessary to maintain operations at the airport.”

Officials at the airport say that work on the extension could begin as soon as June. The project is expected to remain well within budget; in large part due to the contract award of \$14,632,376 which is \$3,228,213 less than the next lowest bidder and considerably lower than the latest engineer’s estimate of \$20,066,000.