

Engineering Division of the Public Works Department

To: Mayor Stocks and Finance Committee Members

From: Andrew Beyer, P.E., Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Date: 3/19/2026

Subject: Review and take possible action: Recommend resolution to support Community Project Funding for the reconstruction and extension of Runway 5/23 at the Watertown Municipal Airport

Background

City staff seek approval to apply for funding under the Community Project Funding program through Congressman Fitzgerald's office for the reconstruction and extension of Runway 5/23 at the Watertown Municipal Airport.

Regional growth and development along with community support are increasing the need for reconstruction and extension of Runway 5/23 in the near future. Current pavement conditions on Runway 5/23 necessitate reconstruction work in the next few years. To facilitate and coordinate the completion of required studies and design for both the planned runway extension project and the necessary reconstruction work, City staff seek approval to apply for funding under the Community Project Funding program through Congressman Fitzgerald's office for \$760,000. A Community Project Funding program award would need to be obligated (under contract) within 12 months of the award date.

The extension of Runway 5/23 has been planned for many years, with resolution #8313 being passed in April 2016 for runway reconstruction and extension work and other improvement projects at the airport. Land acquisition, building demolition and the relocation of a portion of Boomer Street have been completed by the City and Wisconsin Department of Transportation-Bureau of Aeronautics in recent years. Securing funding through the Community Project Funding program would confirm the forward movement of this significant airport improvement project.

The City of Watertown is an eligible applicant to the Community Project Funding program. The lease for operations of the airport between the City of Watertown and Wisconsin Aviation Inc. reserves the right for the City to further develop or improve the landing areas of the airport as

the City sees fit. Therefore it is appropriate for the City of Watertown to be listed as the applicant and submit the application for these funds.

Budget Goal

1. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure to ensure safety, quality, and equity
2. Maintains a safe and healthy community, with an eye toward future needs and trends

Financial Impact

The runway project is anticipated to be cost-shared at 90% federal funds and 10% local funds. The 10% local share is typically split between state (5%) and city (5%) budgets. Account #05-54-53-70 Capital Projects-Airport currently has more than the anticipated \$38,000 City cost-share.

Recommendation

City staff recommend passage of a resolution for the submittal and acceptance of Community Project Funding through Congressman Fitzgerald's office for required studies and design of the Runway 5/23 reconstruction and extension project.

2026 Operational Goals

Present a budget that (Department select the relevant goals, and delete those not relevant):

1. Proactively maintains and improves our parks and infrastructure to ensure safety, quality, and equity
2. Maintains a safe and healthy community, with an eye toward future needs and trends