

The Town of Wilbur owns and operates the Wilbur Municipal Airport. The airport serves as a general aviation facility and also is home to an aerial applicator business which provides services to many farming operations in the Wilbur area.

In the past, airport improvements were funded primarily with state assistance. Recently, the airport was added to the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), making them eligible for federal funding. In the spring of 2009, federal monies became available through a stimulus program that was aimed at providing grants to projects that were "shovel ready". With the runway design in place, the Town of Wilbur was able to qualify for stimulus money for this work. The Town was also granted stimulus money to construct a partial parallel taxiway after completing the runway extension.

The impact the runway extension and taxiway construction had on the surrounding economy through the summer and fall months of 2009 was significant. While work on the projects was underway, the contractor and his subcontractors, on the two projects, estimate approximately 12.7 jobs were created or retained. JUB ENGINEERS, Inc, as the prime consultant to the Town, was able to retain approximately 3.1 jobs. Secondary impacts during construction were felt by local businesses such as motels, restaurants, etc. as people associated with these projects came into town on work-related tasks.

The ability to maintain and even upgrade this airport is a major boost to the economy for the Town of Wilbur. The Town estimates that the economic impact this airport has on the Town is in the range of \$1M/year. With the new west parallel taxiway in place, the Town may now pursue additional hangar tenants and aviation-related businesses, increasing revenues and helping the airport become more self-sustaining. The Town also wishes to develop an industrial park adjacent to the airport and the enhanced airport facilities provide an additional transportation element with which to entice prospective businesses to the area.

This project shows that a small town with proper guidance and the forethought to set aside matching funds annually can be successful in obtaining needed funding for a major project that has the ability to enhance its financial opportunities. It required forward thinking, knowledge of government agency guidelines, standards and practices, extra ordinary coordination and cooperation and the dedication of all involved from the Town to the consultant, the contractor and funding agencies to produce a completed product to be proud of.