



NEWS RELEASE

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Airport prepares to begin nightly runway closures beginning May 18th

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Beginning, Monday, May 18, 2015, the Murfreesboro Municipal Airport will initiate nightly runway closures for 12 hours from 8 p.m. – 8 a.m. The nightly closures are designed to minimize air traffic disruption during a critical \$5 million Runway Extension and Lighting Improvement project. While the night closures are expected to take 75 days, the full project will take approximately 135 days to complete with an anticipated finish prior to MTSU’s fall semester.

The improvements include the removal of runway/taxiway connectors “B” and “C”, constructing new taxiway connectors “A2” and A3”, construction of a new LED airfield lighting system and improved signage and drainage to meet FAA standards for Stormwater runoff. The LED lighting system will have an immediate impact in reducing electrical expenses.

“Atkins Engineering is working in coordination with the Tennessee Division of Aeronautics and contractor LoJac Enterprises, Inc. to minimize the airport closure time by closing the runway 12 hours each night,” said Airport Manager Chad Gehrke. “This management decision will allow crews to work on various items that are near the edge of Runway 18/36.”

The Murfreesboro Municipal Airport is home to several businesses which include Mike Jones Avionics and Maintenance, Murfreesboro Aviation, Executive Air Express, and the Middle Tennessee State University Aerospace Department.

“These businesses depend on a fully-functioning airport,” added Gehrke. “Minimizing the airport closure time to 12 hours nightly is essential, not only for the airport and traveling public, but for the local business community.”

The City Council approved the \$4.5 million contract with LoJac Enterprises for the Runway Project on March 16, 2015. Grant funding for the project is a combination of federal, state and local funds. The majority of state funding stems from the Airfield Pavement Overlay Project.

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Local funding is provided through Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds and annual Debt Service payments.

The Murfreesboro Municipal Airport, located at 1930 Memorial Boulevard, Murfreesboro, TN, 37129, is a general aviation airport serving Middle Tennessee. The airport's largest tenant is the Aerospace Department of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), one of the top schools for aviation in the nation.

For more information, contact Airport Manager Chad Gehrke at 615-848-3254 or e-mail cgehrke@murfreesborotn.gov.

For City News online, visit www.Murfreesborotn.gov.

Photos attached caption:

Murfreesboro Municipal Airport prepares to begin Runway Extension & Lighting Improvement Project.

1. *Airport Construction Begins.jpg.*