



News Release

July 14, 2011

UPDATE ON GRAND JUNCTION REGIONAL AIRPORT FENCE PROJECT

Grand Junction, Colorado, July 14, 2011- The Grand Junction Regional Airport is currently installing a wildlife fence around the perimeter in response to a USDA wildlife assessment completed in 2008 and a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security directive issued in 2009, and the airport is looking at ways to minimize the impact to its tenants.

Unfortunately, because of project eligibility issues not enough money is available from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant to completely replace the fence and access gates in its existing configuration. The configuration that was approved, and is affordable, will change the way some tenants access the general aviation area of the airport.

The new configuration puts an access gate at the corner of Navigators Way and Eagle Drive, and another gate at the corner of Aviators Way and Heritage Way. In neither case, does this affect airline access, and passengers flying out will not notice a difference when they come to the airport. However, some tenants in the General Aviation area of the airport, where private aircraft are stored and businesses such as flight schools operate, are affected by the new fence alignment.

The Airport Board has established the GA Access Options Committee. The Committee has been and continues to explore alternatives for controlling access to the airport's Air Operations Area. A variety of options are currently being assessed by the Airport Board.

“Any option must be fundable by grants or by the tenants, and meet TSA regulations,” said Director of Aviation, Rex Tippetts, noting that several options have already been considered. Cost estimates have also been previously run on some of the more plausible suggestions and the Airport Board remains open to suggestions.

Although built to protect the airport from wildlife, the fence also serves a dual purpose of providing perimeter security for the airport. While the fence is not a specific requirement of the Transportation Security Administration, the TSA's role is not to dictate specific measures to airports, but to allow airports to decide the best way to comply with the regulations, then either approves or disapproves of the method(s). The TSA has approved the wildlife fence with new access controls as an acceptable method to control access.

Grand Junction Regional Airport
2828 Walker Field Drive, Suite 301
Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

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Contact Information:
Jeffrey C. Price M.A., C.M.
303-386-3434 Office
303-912-0917 Cell

