



## ***Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission***

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Project at Ardmore's Downtown Airport Improves Runway**

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – The runway at the Ardmore Downtown Executive Airport is much safer today thanks to some runway overlay work that was recently completed.

Officials with the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission were in Ardmore recently for a final inspection of the runway project. The Commission awarded nearly \$488,000 for the project through its Capital Improvement Program, which provides state funding for capital projects at Oklahoma's public airports.

"The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission is pleased that we were able to improve the condition of the runway surface at Ardmore's downtown airport," said agency director Victor Bird. "This project will prove beneficial as this burgeoning city continues its goal of attracting more business and industry to the area."

The runway overlay project took three years to complete from planning to construction, according to city officials, which included filling out the necessary paperwork to receive the grant, accepting bids on the project, hiring a contractor and conducting various tests.

As part of the actual work done on the runway, construction workers placed a thick layer of asphalt-concrete mix over the top of the existing runway surface.

Bruce Cypert, general services director for the City of Ardmore, said that not only is the runway smoother now that the overlay project has been finished but there is also better drainage on the runway.

"Cracks in the pavement allow moisture to get under the runway and then you start having pavement deterioration from the moisture. You could have big chunks of asphalt come up, and those broken pieces could get into the prop or jet intakes. Then you have some serious problems," Cypert said.

Cypert said the Ardmore Downtown Executive Airport has been jet capable for almost 20 years and is home to 47 aircraft, including jets belonging to The Noble Foundation and Imtech Aviation. He said the airport recently constructed a new taxiway on the south end of the runway, which still requires some additional utility work.

The Commission's mission is to encourage, foster and assist in the development of aeronautics in Oklahoma and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of airports. This includes the preservation and improvement of the state's 114 public airports in communities throughout the state, which make up the State Airport System, and the promotion of aviation, one of the top employers in Oklahoma.



**PHOTO CUTLINE:** Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission (OAC) employees Dale Williams, center, and Vivek Khanna, right, inspect the new asphalt-concrete runway surface that was recently placed over the top of the existing runway surface at the Ardmore Downtown Executive Airport as contractor Ron Gillihan, president of Seal Masters, Inc. in Davis, Okla., looks on. The OAC provided an approximately \$488,000 grant for the overlay project through its Capital Improvement Program.