

Plans Move Forward for New Commercial Airport

Plans for a new commercial airport near Switzerland County are now closer to becoming a reality. The Gallatin County, Kentucky fiscal court has purchased options on over 400 acres of land for the project. The airport location will be near the Kentucky Speedway & Interstate 71 and five to ten minutes from the Markland Business Park.

The total project cost will be \$25 to \$30 million. The airport has been discussed for over a decade and has been strongly supported by nearby industries and tourist attractions. The availability of a nearby airport is important to both current and prospective industries because it reduces to cost and lost time involved in moving employees and executives from one facility to another. Industrial sites and buildings near a commercial airport are more competitive than those requiring a long commute to an airport.

The next step will be for Gallatin County to purchase the property, with those costs being reimbursed by the State of Kentucky. The construction of the airport is expected to be funded by the Federal Aviation Administration. While all of necessary parties are in full support of the new airport, there are still many steps that need to occur before construction begins. At this point, the final completion date for the project is still unknown.