

**For Immediate Release**

**Rochester International Airport breaks ground on  
\$79.2 million Runway Improvements Project**

**Rochester, MN (May 7, 2021)** –Rochester International Airport (RST) breaks ground on Phase 1 of construction on RST’s runway improvements project today.

“We are incredibly grateful for the hard work and support that has brought us to this point. Funding a large project requires great collaboration at the federal, state and local levels,” said John Reed, RST’s executive director. “Reconstruction of Runway 2/20 kicks off today, resulting in new jobs in our area and ensuring uninterrupted air access for travelers in our region.”

RST’s runway project is a multi-year, multi-phase project to replace Runway 2/20, which has reached the end of its useful life. The total cost of the project is \$79.2 million and includes:

- A 1,647-foot extension to Runway 2/20 and Taxiway B
- New 40-inch pavement section (sand, gravel, pavement)
- 275,000 square yards of pavement removed and recycled
- 1.7 million cubic yards of material excavated
- 8 miles of underdrain tile to improve drainage
- 13 miles of underground electrical cable and conduit
- 500 new LED runway and taxiway lights
- Improved approach capabilities

The project was funded with \$62.8 million from the Federal Aviation Administration, \$11.4 million from the State of Minnesota and \$5.0 million in local funding. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held on the closed runway at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Federal, state and local elected officials and airport stakeholders will gather to celebrate the project.

**Rochester International Airport**

Rochester International Airport (RST) is owned by the City of Rochester and operated by the Rochester Airport Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mayo Clinic. RST is served daily by United Airlines, American Airlines and Delta Air Lines, which collectively offer flights to Denver, Atlanta, Chicago, and Minneapolis. Sun Country Airlines will launch twice-weekly flights to both Phoenix, AZ and Fort Myers, FL in February 2022. RST provides air service to Southeast MN and border regions of Iowa and Wisconsin. Stay connected at [FlyRST.com](http://FlyRST.com) and on Facebook/[RochesterAirport](https://www.facebook.com/RochesterAirport) and Twitter [@flyrst](https://twitter.com/flyrst).

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