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AIRPORT COMMISSION OKAYS START OF BID PROCESS FOR NEW VEHICLE ACCESS ROAD

For Immediate Release

HYANNIS – The Barnstable Airport Commission voted Thursday to begin preparing bid documents for a new vehicle access road linking Attucks Lane — via Airport Road — to the planned new passenger terminal.

Commission Vice Chairman Donald Megathlin urged his colleagues to get the bid process “in the works now” with Barnstable town officials because it could take up to five months to complete. Approval was unanimous.

The extended time frame is significant, Airport Manager Roland “Bud” Breault said, because airport officials want to leave sufficient time for the resolution of legal questions raised about traffic issues.

“It’s the next step in our overall airport improvement program,” said Commission Chairman Daniel W. Santos.

The new road, dedicated for airport use and arriving and departing passengers, would wind its way from the present end of Airport Road through a reconfigured airport campus. It is intended, in part, to draw traffic away from the congested Airport Rotary and Rte. 132. The project would include a redrawn intersection of Airport Road and Attucks Lane and a new traffic signal, to be completed by the Town of Barnstable.

Ninety-five percent of \$3.8 million in eligible construction costs will be paid with Federal Aviation Administration grant funds. The balance, about \$437,000, will be funded by airport reserves. In other matters:

- Breault told commissioners that a cornerstone-laying ceremony for the new 35,000 sq-ft. terminal will be scheduled in late October now that all construction grant funds have been approved.
- Commissioner Ronald Persuitte asked the commission to consider developing a master plan for its non-airport property holdings in light of developer interest in K-Mart Plaza.
- Site work is going forward in preparation for the construction of a new air traffic control tower.
- The former TD Bank building near the Airport Rotary is scheduled to be razed Monday, September 27.

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