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## **FIVE MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED AT AIRPORT THIS YEAR AND NEXT**

For Immediate Release

HYANNIS – Two of five major improvement projects planned for 2014-15 are underway at Barnstable Municipal Airport. They are part of the airport’s draft master plan, a document required by the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) agreement between the airport and the Cape Cod Commission.

An aircraft taxiway, known as Taxiway Alpha, is being relocated 50 feet farther from parallel Runway 15/33 that runs along Barnstable Road. Airport Manager Roland “Bud” Breault says the \$6 million project will increase the safe-separation distance between taxiing aircraft and those that are taking off and landing. “Once completed it will significantly increase safety on the airfield,” he said. “The Federal Aviation Administration required this to be done, and the FAA and the Aeronautics Division of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation have committed to pay 98 percent of the project cost.” As part of the same project, the airport will complete reconstruction of the aircraft parking apron adjacent to the passenger terminal, Breault added.

In addition, construction has begun on a new central deicing pad near the new air traffic control tower. It will replace three others now scattered around the airfield. Breault says the state-of-the-art facility will use an environmentally-friendly process to collect used deicing fluids, route them through a collection tank then directly into the Town of Barnstable’s sewer system. Currently, de-icing chemicals and water have to be vacuumed manually before being placed into the sewer.

Construction is expected to begin this year on nearly 30 acres of ground-based, photo-voltaic solar panels that collect the sun's energy. To be sited on the airfield across from the terminal, the panels will generate electricity for use by the airport and some of the town's water facilities. The project's start date is somewhat uncertain, Breault said, but in order for the project to stay on track construction must be completed by the end of June. Breault estimated that the panels, when operational, will reduce the airport's cost of electricity by more than 17 percent and provide more than \$7 million in revenue over 20 years.

The state currently is funding the design and engineering of a 60,000 gallon, above-ground jet fuel storage center, known as a fuel farm, which will be built on the airfield. The environmentally-friendly fuel farm will replace a 20-year-old underground tank that has one-third of the capacity of the new one. Pending the availability of state and federal funds construction will begin next year, Breault reported.

Later this year, NSTAR is expected to begin installing a new high-capacity electric cable along its airfield easement between Mary Dunn Road—adjacent to the A-1-A Steel & Supply Co.—and Mary Dunn Way near Route 28. The cable will be laid through large conduits beneath parts of the airfield and runway 6/24. There may be limited disruption of runway use during construction, Breault said, but it is not expected to affect airline service.

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