

(January 25, 2007) Rep. Lipinski Brings House Aviation Chairman and Federal Aviation Administrator

Rep. Lipinski Brings House Aviation Chairman and
Federal Aviation Administrator to View Midway Safety Improvements

CHICAGO, IL - Today, Congressman Dan Lipinski, a new member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Aviation Subcommittee, was joined by Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Jerry Costello (D-IL) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator Marion Blakey on a tour of the new safety improvements at Midway International Airport.

"Chicago is a key national and international aviation hub and it is critical that the city of Chicago, Congress, and the Federal Aviation Administration work together to continue to ensure the safety and vitality of both Midway and O'Hare Airports," said Lipinski. "Through collaboration we brought new safety upgrades to Midway Airport which will greatly enhance the safety of the flying public and everyone around the airport."

Last May, the City of Chicago submitted a request seeking approval and funding to construct Engineered Material Arresting Systems (EMAS) along four runways at Midway. EMAS consists of a bed of specially coated cement blocks engineered to collapse under the weight of an aircraft's landing gear should it overshoot the end of a runway. In June, Congressman Lipinski announced that the FAA awarded a \$15 million Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant to the City to cover the first phase of the project. This work was completed late last year.

"I will continue to work to protect airplane passengers, as well as those living, working, shopping, and attending school in around Midway Airport, while not impacting the surrounding community," stated Lipinski.

"For the sake of the residents of northeastern Illinois and the flying public, I am committed to working with Chairman Costello and the rest of the Aviation Subcommittee, as well as with the FAA and the City of Chicago, to continue improvements at our local airports," said Lipinski.

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