



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **\$15 million FAA grant strengthens Rickenbacker's global growth plans**

COLUMBUS — Rickenbacker International Airport (LCK) is slated to receive \$15 million from the Federal Aviation Administration for airport improvements, including runway upgrades, that will support a projected tenfold increase in cargo activity over the next 20 years.

“The FAA grant and these improvements align with Rickenbacker’s growth strategies over the next two decades,” said Joseph R. Nardone, President & CEO of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority which oversees the cargo-focused airport. “We are grateful to our Ohio congressional delegation and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao for recognizing Rickenbacker’s economic importance to the region and its critical role in international commerce.”

“Infrastructure is the shot in the arm our economy needs to continue its growth, and this investment in Central Ohio is no exception,” Congressman Steven Stivers said. “Rickenbacker is a critical component of our community for tourism and business, and maintaining their facilities is in everyone’s best interest. I’m glad to see that the FAA understands that and is committed to fulfilling the full grant amount that was requested for these crucial repairs.”

Rickenbacker is among a select group of airports to benefit from the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 that made available an additional \$1.5 billion of supplemental Airport Improvement Program funding. This budget deal was signed into law in February 2018 and was made possible through the support of Congressman Stivers, Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, and Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman.

Recognized in the industry as a new global gateway for cargo, Rickenbacker contributes 15,280 jobs, \$880 million in annual payroll and \$2.5 billion in annual economic impact in Ohio.

### **About Rickenbacker International Airport**

Located in Columbus, Ohio, Rickenbacker International Airport is one of the world’s few cargo-dedicated airports. Rickenbacker is within a one-day drive to nearly half of the U.S. population and one-third of the Canadian population.

With regularly scheduled import and export service via AirBridgeCargo Airlines, Cargolux, Cathay Pacific Cargo, China Airlines Cargo, Emirates SkyCargo and Etihad Cargo, Rickenbacker specializes in expedited services that move cargo between planes and trucks faster and more consistently than other gateway airports. FedEx and UPS also are onsite to provide domestic cargo service, which is critical to growing e-commerce activity.

Learn more at [RickenbackerAdvantage.com](http://RickenbackerAdvantage.com). Or contact [Angie Tabor](mailto:Angie.Tabor@ColumbusAA.com), Sr. Manager of Marketing & Communications, at 614-239-4081 for additional information.

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