

PRESS RELEASE

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Bradley International Airport Receives \$6 Million in Federal Funds to Use for Major Airport Improvement

Windsor Locks, CONN – November 4, 2024 – The Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) is pleased to announce that \$6 million of federal funding has been secured for a major improvement project at Bradley International Airport (BDL).

The funding will be used for the ongoing construction of an 80,000 square foot inline baggage screening facility behind the Sheraton Hotel, which is one of two construction projects currently underway at BDL. Once complete, baggage will be sent from the airline ticket counters along a mile-long conveyor belt to the new facility for screening. Current explosive-detection machines located in the terminal lobby will be relocated once the new screening facility is operational, which will open additional space for current and future airline growth. The facility will also entail the construction of three new gates.

“The CAA is grateful for this new infusion of federal funding as we continue construction on major projects to enhance the passenger experience at Bradley International Airport. We also want to particularly thank Governor Lamont, Connecticut’s federal delegation, and the Connecticut Business and Industry Association for working hard to secure this funding,” said **CAA Executive Director Kevin A. Dillon, A.A.E.**

The designated funding for Bradley International Airport comes from a total \$970 million dollars in grant funding from the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) FY25 Airport Terminal Program, which was established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Through a competitive grant process, the FAA is providing funding to 125 airports across the country this fiscal year to focus on terminal reconstruction, development, accessibility, energy efficiency, and more.

Prior to today’s announcement, BDL has been awarded over \$31 million of grant funds from prior years of the Airport Terminal Program, which is a subset of the total \$99 million in federal grants that BDL has received for its major terminal enhancement projects. The CAA has successfully applied for funds in each year that the highly competitive grant program has been offered.

“Over the last several years, Bradley has implemented many major improvements that have resulted in this airport being ranked among the best in the nation,” said **Governor Ned Lamont.**

“This funding will enable Bradley to continue making upgrades that will strengthen its reputation as one of the best and most convenient airports available.”

“As a frequent flyer – from Bradley back and forth weekly to DC – I know very personally what a great airport it is, and how much greater it could be. In fact, with this \$6 million federal funding boost, it will be on a flight path to become one of the nation’s premier air travel hubs. Streamlined, upgraded, and expanded, its services will be speedier and safer than ever. I’ll continue fighting for even more federal support,” said **Senator Richard Blumenthal**.

“Investing in Connecticut’s airports isn’t just good for travelers—it also creates lots of good-paying jobs and draws new businesses to our state,” said **Senator Chris Murphy**. “This \$6 million for a new baggage handling system will help open up space for more flight options and keep flyers safe, making the travel experience even more convenient and ensuring Bradley continues to be recognized as one of the top airports in the country.”

“This \$6 million in funding for Bradley International Airport builds on the progress that’s been made to improve passenger experience, modernize baggage screening, expand flight options, and create good-paying jobs” said **Representative John B. Larson**. “I am proud to have worked with the delegation to deliver millions of dollars in funding for Bradley through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. We will continue to work with our partners at the state, including the CAA, to advance our airport’s infrastructure and ensure a positive experience for travelers.”

“Bradley Airport is a critical piece of Connecticut’s economy,” said **CBIA President and CEO Chris DiPentima**. “Businesses and their workforces need to be able to move around the state and the rest of the country to attract businesses and individuals to the state. These improvements will help make Bradley, and Connecticut, an even more desirable destination.”

“The CAA wants to thank our elected officials, particularly Governor Lamont, Senator Blumenthal, Senator Murphy, and Congressman Larson, for their unwavering support of Bradley International Airport in our pursuit of federal funding for these critical projects. Due to their hard work, Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill funds continue to be put to work in our state to modernize the airport,” said **CAA Board Chair Tony Sheridan**.

The total cost of the inline baggage screening facility project is estimated at \$188 million. In addition to the federal funding, the construction of the facility will be funded through a combination of passenger facility charges and airport revenue.

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About Bradley International Airport

Bradley International Airport (BDL) is New England's second-largest airport. Recognized nationally by leading travel publications for its ease of travel, Bradley International Airport is ready to welcome you with new nonstops and expanded services. The award-winning airport is operated by the Connecticut Airport Authority, and its operations are entirely self-funded. The airport contributes nearly \$3.6 billion to the regional economy. For more info, visit www.bradleyairport.com.

About The Connecticut Airport Authority

The CAA was established in 2011 to develop, improve, and operate Bradley International Airport and the state's five general aviation airports (Danielson, Groton-New London, Hartford-Brainard, Waterbury-Oxford, and Windham). The CAA Board consists of 11 members with a broad spectrum of experience in aviation-related and other industries, as well as government. The goal of the CAA is to make Connecticut's airports more attractive to new airlines, bring in new routes, and support Connecticut's overall economic development and growth strategy. For more info, visit www.ctairports.org



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