

News Advisory

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Ford Airport Board Moves Forward With Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program

\$120 million project to include 4-story parking ramp

4/25/07 -- At its April 25, 2007 meeting, the Kent County Aeronautics Board voted to proceed with the bid-letting phase of the Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program (TAPIP) at Gerald R. Ford International Airport. With a total program budget of \$120 million, TAPIP represents the largest single infrastructure development project in the airport's history.

The centerpiece of the TAPIP project will be a 4-story, 4,900-space parking ramp, to be located immediately across from the passenger terminal building. The parking ramp will house short-term, and long-term, as well as the airport's rental car operations, and will offer airport patrons safe, close-in, covered vehicle parking.

In addition to the parking ramp, additional elements of the TAPIP project include:

- two pedestrian sky bridges connecting the parking ramp to the passenger terminal
- a canopy covering the roadway between the parking ramp and the passenger terminal
- a vehicle entrance plaza
- a transit station
- escalator / elevator lobbies in the passenger terminal
- roadway modifications and reconstruction
- utility upgrades
- streetscaping and landscaping

The three primary sources of funding for the TAPIP project will be airport revenue bonds (scheduled to be issued in September 2007), revenue from ongoing airport operations, and car rental fees (to finance the rental car portion of the parking ramp).

Following receipt and review of construction bids, the Aeronautics Board will vote on whether to proceed with construction of the TAPIP project. Pending a vote to proceed, construction could begin in October 2007, with project completion expected in October 2009.

(Project renderings available upon request.)

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