

# P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Interviews available upon request

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## **VALLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RECEIVES 4.5 MILLION FAA GRANT**

**Harlingen, TX – August 5, 2015** – Valley International Airport (VIA) recently submitted and received 4.5 million dollars in grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program for various capital improvement projects on the Airport. These funds coupled with a 10% match from VIA will help promote safety and improve on the number airline weather delays and cancelations during inclement weather.

The first project will relocate the perimeter access road used by aviation fueling companies and emergency response vehicles to transition from the east side of the Airport to the commercial carriers on the west side of the Airport. The new route will be clear of all runway movement areas and be located outside of designated runway safety areas.

The second project will update 37 painted airfield pavement signs to highly visible Thermoplastic signs. The upgrades will reduce maintenance expenses associated with painted signs and improve visibility to pilot both day and night.

The third project will install a new approach lighting system on Runway 31. This system will provide a lower minimum altitude for aircraft on a northwest approach during low visibility utilizing GPS technology. By installing this system VIA hopes to minimize weather delays, cancelations and diversions during the winter months.

In addition, VIA will upgrade the edge lights on Runway 17R/35L, the longest runway in South Texas. Runway edges lights assist pilots in identifying the runway environment and aligning the aircraft with the runway during landing. These lighting improvements are complex in their design and will significantly enhance the safety of aircraft operations, particularly in conditions of reduced visibility.

VIA hopes to have these improvement installed by the early part of 2016.



Above pictures are examples only:

**About Valley International Airport** - Valley International is the largest airport in South Texas. Nearly 700,000 passengers and visitors walk through our terminal annually. Southwest Airlines offers nonstop service from Harlingen to Austin, and Houston/Hobby. United Express offers nonstop service to Houston Intercontinental. Delta Air Lines offers seasonal service to Minneapolis/St. Paul. Allegiant Airlines and Sun Country Airlines offer casino charters year round. Air cargo is serviced by a wide-body fleet from FedEx and DHL. The airport offers many features; among them, door-to-door shuttle

service to South Padre Island, free Wi-Fi and a complimentary frequent flyer lounge. More information is available at [www.flythevalley.com](http://www.flythevalley.com) and [www.facebook.com/flythevalley](https://www.facebook.com/flythevalley)