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News Release

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Plans for Enclosure to Reduce Aircraft Noise at Detroit Metropolitan Airport Move Forward

Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) is one step closer to constructing a Ground Run-Up Enclosure (GRE) to reduce aircraft-generated noise in surrounding neighborhoods.

After making repairs, airlines regularly “run-up” aircraft engines for testing purposes before the aircraft are returned to service. Airlines will taxi aircraft into the three-sided GRE and run the engine at various levels up to full-power for periods of time ranging from a few minutes to as long as 45 minutes. Currently, the airlines perform these tests in open designated areas adjacent to runways.

“A ground run-up enclosure will have a noticeable impact for our neighbors because the airlines often conduct aircraft engine maintenance at night when ambient noise levels are low,” said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. “This enclosure will absorb and deflect a significant amount of noise resulting from airline run-ups.”

To maximize the effectiveness of the GRE, it will be centrally located on DTW’s airfield, just north of taxiway A-5. The structure may be as large as 350-feet by 300-feet—large enough to accommodate a B747-400 aircraft.

Today’s approval of an engineering services contract by the Wayne County Airport Authority Board with C & S Engineers, for \$1.25 million, is a significant milestone which means construction is likely to begin in 2010. Airlines are expected to begin using the GRE in 2011 during a one-year performance testing period.

The anticipated Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation for this engineering contract is 12%.