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Governor Doyle Approves \$135,000 Project at the Richland Airport

Richland Center, September 19, 2005

Governor Jim Doyle has approved a \$135,000 project to purchase snow removal equipment at the Richland Airport near Richland Center. The Governor's action releases \$4,042 in state funds to help purchase the equipment. The city of Richland Center is contributing \$4,043, with the Federal Aviation Administration providing \$126,915.

"A quality airport can serve as an important economic asset to attract jobs to a local community," Governor Doyle said. "Purchase of this equipment will help keep the Richland Airport open for business throughout the winter season." The Governor's "Grow Wisconsin" plan calls for strategic investments in the comprehensive transportation network to spur economic growth.

The four-wheel-drive, multi-directional tractor can be fitted with blower, loader, blade or broom attachments to help keep airport pavements clear of snow and ice, according to Wendy Hottenstein, Airport Development Engineer with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The new tractor, expected to be delivered this fall, will enhance safety and efficiency by providing a dedicated piece of snow removal equipment for the airport. Through a competitive bidding process, WisDOT helped procure snow removal equipment for Richland and several other Wisconsin airports as a single package to hold down costs.

Facilities at the Richland Airport include a 3,200-foot paved runway and a 1,500-foot turf airstrip. There are some 10 aircraft based at the airport and approximately 9,500 aircraft operations (take-offs and landings) each year.

For more information contact:

Wendy Hottenstein, WisDOT Airport Development Engineer
(608) 261-6278 wendy.hottenstein@dot.state.wi.us

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Office of Public Affairs, opa.exec@dot.state.wi.us

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