The car rental ready return roadway underwent a rehabilitation this past fall. The project included the removal of the pre-existing concrete, replacement of the sub-base, and four-inch asphalt paving.

"We are all really happy to get this project accomplished at the end of 2019, reopening the roadway on the south side of the terminal," said Executive Director, Tim Bannon. "Rental Car operations are a big part of our business at Willard Airport, we strive to keep our facilities and roadways in good repair, and fully operational."

Charging Stations Coming Spring 2020
Ewalt Named Assistant Director of Operations & Maintenance

Brian Ewalt joined Willard Airport in November as the Assistant Director of Operations & Maintenance. Ewalt previously served as an Operations Officer at Gerald R. Ford International Airport. He will lead the Airport Operations Department (AOD) and Building Service Workers (BSW) and serve as the Airport Security Coordinator.

"I am excited and honored for the opportunity to work with the talented Willard Airport team and serve in this capacity," said Ewalt. "I look forward to supporting a safe, friendly, and customer focused experience for all our visitors, tenants, and employees."

In an effort to better serve Willard travelers, new charging stations will be installed in spring 2020. These charging stations will allow up to eight devices to charge at once and will be installed in the departure lounge.

"The charging stations will allow travelers to charge their devices without having to search for wall outlets," said Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications, Ashley Hipsher. "The last thing we want to see is travelers sitting on the floor just so they can charge their phones, so this should help alleviate that issue."

Q & A with Parkland College Institute of Aviation

We caught up with Wendy Evans, Parkland College Institute of Aviation Program Manager and Recruiter, to chat about the flight school program. Read the full article here.

TSA Precheck Processing April 6-10

Frequent travelers interested in TSA Precheck will be able to enroll April 6-10 at Willard Airport. The fee is $85 for a five-year enrollment.

You must first apply online and make an appointment. The application will open in Mid-February.

Travelers enrolled in TSA Precheck enjoy shorter security lines and no need to remove shoes, belts, or laptops from bags.

The Human Race 5k at Willard by Body and Sole
Save the Date for The Human Festival of Savoy on Saturday, May 30, 2020. The festival is a celebration of people in the community. The Human Race 5K at Willard will take place at dusk, right on the airport runway. Learn more about the festival and the race online!

2019 Passenger Enplanement Numbers
Scheduled airline enplanements for 2019 were 105,327. This is a decrease of 5.2% from 2018. However, this is the third year in a row Willard has achieved more than 100,000 enplanements. The addition of the Charlotte (CLT) route counterbalanced the loss of United Airlines in 2018.

Customer Appreciation Day Recap
Willard Airport celebrated our customers during Customer Appreciation Day on Thursday, October 24. We handed out swag, had snacks on hand, and greeted travelers with free coffee. Just a simple way to say "thanks" to those that matter!

Entrance Road Rehab Update
This spring you might notice some improvements around the airport. The entrance road project was delayed—however, it is moving forward this spring.

“We anticipate this project starting in early Spring 2020, a much-needed rehabilitation project that will improve access to the airport. Once started, the project is anticipated to take a maximum of 50 calendar days. Please keep in mind that lane closures are expected during the project, which will impact traffic flow and may cause short delays in accessing the airport terminal and general aviation areas of the airport.”

The signage along the roadways and parking lots are being updated over the next couple of months as well.

$1.3M FAA Grant Awarded to Willard Airport
In September, Willard was notified we would receive a $1.3M Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant to be used on airport taxiway lighting, signs, and wiring. The $1.3M grant adds to the $9.9M previously awarded in May by the FAA for runway upgrades to take place in 2020.

“This grant will be used to rehabilitate signage, lighting, and underground wiring infrastructure on numerous air carrier taxiways at Willard Airport,” says Executive Director, Tim Bannon. “The project associated with this grant will allow us to continue to maintain a high level of safety for our aeronautical users.”