

# Illini Flyer

Fly Champaign-Urbana News & Updates



2022 | Issue 1

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## Air Service Spotlight

American Airlines 

Book your next American Airlines flight from Champaign-Urbana

## Unveiling of Airport's Block-I



University of Illinois - Willard Airport worked with Expo Arts out of Indianapolis, IN to design the airport's own Block-I. The



## Director's Corner

*Tim Bannon, AAE - Executive Director  
University of Illinois - Willard Airport*

Despite the pandemic, it has been a very busy couple of years at Willard Airport. We've just completed a set of major projects designed to make your experience better and to ensure not only your comfort, but your safety.

Our terminal has a whole new look. We've replaced all the signage, installed new carpet, and added more passenger amenities like water bottle fillers and charging stations. New wayfinding makes it easy to locate whatever you need – and our branding now matches our parent – the University of Illinois. When visitors land at Willard, they'll know they've landed at the home of the Illini.

We also re-built one of our three runways, ensuring safe landings and takeoffs for decades to come. The \$12 million project was almost entirely funded by the

illuminated monument was installed in the main terminal, in front of Baggage Claim and near the Visit Champaign County area of the terminal. This new airport feature serves as a focal point for our visitors and passengers and makes for a great photo opportunity.

The Block-I, which includes airport branding, stands over 7ft tall and weighs in at over 800lbs fully assembled.

federal and State governments – no local tax money was needed. Right now, we're getting ready to build a brand new rental car wash facility.

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## A Fresh Look for 2022



Willard Airport has invested more than \$110,000 to make your experience better. You'll find a refreshed terminal with new flooring, all new wayfinding. When you're ready to travel, we're ready to welcome you back with a better experience than ever.

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### Leveraging Aid to Bridge the Pandemic

When Willard Airport's passengers collapsed as the pandemic took hold, the Airport quickly worked with federal agencies to replace lost revenue, and keep everyone employed.

Unlike other central Illinois airports, Willard receives no local tax revenue – so the pandemic created a challenge deeper for Willard than for most other airports. With the Airport's quick action, the community is well positioned for air service recovery, and even growth.



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## A Runway Re-Do

Without safe runways, Willard Airport can't effectively serve central Illinois. Working with federal and state agencies, Willard's leadership was able to come up with \$12.4 million to completely replace one of three runways. This winter, the new "crosswind" runway is getting a workout.

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## A Better Willard Airport Experience in the Future

Travelers will notice changes into 2023, as the Airport works with rental car agencies on a new vehicle service center. Pilots will notice a new taxiway realignment, too. Each project will make the airport safer, and provide a better experience for visitors and passengers who fly in and out.



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