

# Illini Flyer

Fly Champaign-Urbana News & Updates



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## Air Service Spotlight

American Airlines 

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### Director's Corner

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

Our airport is excited to welcome new, larger jets, starting this month. American Airlines' regional affiliate, Envoy, now operates both daily roundtrips to and from Dallas/Ft. Worth with 76-seat Embraer ERJ175 aircraft. The planes are much larger than the 50-seaters previously used on the route, and they feature 12 first class seats – the first time American has offered a first class product in Champaign-Urbana. The plane also has larger overhead bins, which means you won't have to gate-check your roll aboard.

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## Willard Wins Big: \$850,000 Grant for Service to Washington, DC

Willard Airport was the only airport in Illinois to win funding for new service, as the Department of Transportation awarded the Airport \$850,000 to support new service to Washington, DC. The funds help offset airline risk in starting the new route, and position Willard well for new service when current pilot shortages ease.

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## New, Larger Jets Now Flying between Champaign-Urbana and Dallas/Ft. Worth

American Airlines now serves select Willard Airport flights with larger Embraer ERJ175 aircraft. Many flights to and from Dallas/Ft. Worth feature the new plane, which has 12 first class seats, and 64 economy class seats, in a comfortable 2-by-2 seating layout.



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## Airport Master Plan Complete: Improvement Plans Set for Next Decade

Willard Airport's first master plan in more than 30 years is now complete, laying out future development options, land use, and improvements for passengers. You'll see the first master plan-identified project completed in 2024: a new, and much larger, TSA security screening checkpoint.

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## Safety First: Willard Secures First New Fire Truck in 19 Years

The “Porsche” of fire trucks is now on the job at Willard, as it took delivery of its state-of-the-art Oshkosh Striker 1500 in October. The truck will decrease accident response time and ensure the safety of both firefighters and those they rescue.

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## Willard Welcomes New Assistant Director of Operations and Maintenance

We welcome Andrew Smith to Willard Airport as our new Assistant Director of Operations and Maintenance. Andrew’s ten years of airport experience will help ensure the Airport complies with all federal regulations and is responsive to tenants and passengers.

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