

Airport gets improvement funds

\$1.85M from U.S. grant will go to improving taxiway

BY FRAN DANIEL
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Smith Reynolds Airport has been awarded \$1.85 million in federal block grant money from the N.C. Division of Aviation for a taxiway improvement project.

The project will replace the primary pavement leading to the current hangars in the corporate aviation area at the airport. The work will consist of grading, patching and overlaying the current pavement.

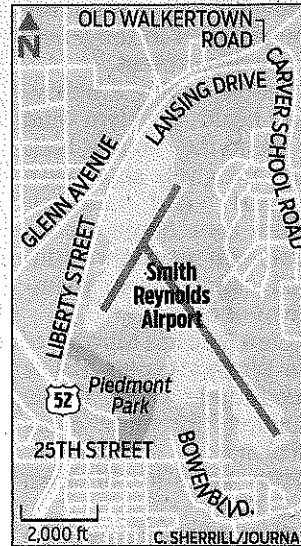
"Rehabilitation of this

pavement is critical to the corporate end user of the airport," said Richard Walls, the N.C. Department of Transportation's director of aviation. The project is a high priority for the airport and the department, he said.

The money came from a \$22.7 million Federal Aviation Administration block grant that the Division of Aviation received at the end of September 2011.

Thomas McKim, the chairman of the Airport Commission of Forsyth County, said airport officials are always trying to improve the infrastructure, including the taxiway, at Smith Reynolds.

"These are challenging financial times, so to be



cause we're keeping our basic infrastructure in repair, but also it's essential in our effort to expand the suitability of the airport for maintenance and repair operations."

North State Aviation, for example, is hoping to get its aircraft maintenance and repair business moving forward at the airport, McKim said.

"Getting these funds to help beef up the existing taxiway is going to be very helpful to putting in place the kind of infrastructure that's needed to allow North State Aviation and other users of the airport to operate," he said.

able to get this kind of a grant and be able to use it for that type of a project is not only a good thing be-

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