

DOCUMENTS  
ROOMFEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

For Release  
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## WPA RUSHES AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ON 350 CERTIFIED DEFENSE SITES

Howard O. Hunter, Acting Commissioner of Work Projects, today reported extension of the WPA airport construction program to include \$150,000,000 worth of projects at 350 sites certified by the War and Navy Departments as important to the nation's defense.

With additional projects swelling the program almost daily, Mr. Hunter said, the number of certified sites where WPA is building, enlarging or otherwise improving airports during the current fiscal year will approach the 400 mark.

Sixty thousand WPA workers were rushing construction on 248 certified sites as of February 20. Projects had been approved for 88 other certified sites on that date. At eight others, projects had recently been completed.

The defense airport program includes military and naval fields and civilian fields which have been specifically designated as important to the country's expanding air forces. They provide a pattern of fields along the seacoasts and borders of the country with strategic concentrations in the corners.

Expansion of WPA airport activity is illustrated by the rate of project approvals, which has been four times as great since the defense preparedness program began last summer as during the

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fiscal year ended last June. The work authorized covers every aspect of airport facilities, from grading of fields and paving of runways to construction of buildings and installation of utilities and field lighting.

"Although only a few months have passed since the Secretaries of War and Navy designated the sites where their air corps desire new or improved fields, the WPA airport program now covers the greater part of them," Mr. Hunter said. "The preliminary planning has been done with extraordinary speed through the cooperation of the local government sponsors, the Army and the Navy and the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

"Recognizing the urgency of the situation with a doubling and redoubling in the number of American planes, local governments have readily submitted projects outlined by the armed forces, and the WPA has shortened the time required before Presidential approval and the beginning of work. The CAA, moreover, recently provided nearly \$10,000,000 to assist at 86 of the certified sites where additional funds were needed.

"Finally," Mr. Hunter said, "the WPA is increasing the work week of its employees on airport and other certified defense construction projects, wherever early completion is essential. Crews previously working 30 and in some cases 40 hours, are now working 48 hours a week where necessary."

The program carries forward, at a multiplied rate, WPA airport construction and improvement operations which have reached 750 separate sites in five and one-half years. WPA has provided more

than 200 new landing fields and enlarged or otherwise improved several hundred others, the greater number of which are in actual or projected use by the armed forces or in connection with airplane production and pilot training. More than 400 miles of new runways, alone, have been constructed.

Representing the bulk of all airport construction work during the period, the completed work accounted for \$250,000,000 in expenditure by WPA and sponsors.

Under the current defense program, in New England alone work is under way or will start shortly on 44 airports, 17 of them in Maine and 11 in Massachusetts. Florida has 45 sites, California 33, Oregon 16, Texas 16, Washington State 12, and New York 11.

The program calls for expenditures, in WPA and sponsors' funds, of \$13,681,000 in Florida, \$11,834,000 in California, \$8,929,000 in Maine, \$7,981,000 in Pennsylvania, \$7,133,000 in Washington State, \$6,791,000 in Illinois, \$4,922,000 in the District of Columbia, \$4,618,000 in Alabama, \$4,138,000 in Colorado, \$4,117,000 in New York, \$4,039,000 in Texas and \$4,004,000 in New Jersey.

The largest allocations of WPA funds in the current program, by sites, include: Scott Field (Army), Belleville, Ill, \$3,147,000; Philadelphia Municipal Airport, \$2,212,000; Lowry Field (Army), Denver, \$2,116,000; Snohomish County Airport, Wash., \$2,084,000; Des Moines City Airport, \$1,656,000; Baltimore Municipal Airport,



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\$1,542,000; Stout Field (National Guard), Indianapolis, \$1,212,000; McDill Field (Army), Tampa, Fla., \$1,159,000; St. Paul Municipal Airport, \$1,115,000; Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla., \$1,105,000; Ohio County Airport, Wheeling, W. Va., \$1,083,000; City Airport, Albany, Ga., \$1,079,000; Caribou Municipal Airport, Me., \$1,022,000.

(Attached are tables summarizing, by States, the current program and previous WPA airport construction.)

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ESTIMATED COST OF WPA AIRPORT AND AIRWAY PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR  
OPERATION AND CERTIFIED AS BEING IMPORTANT FOR MILITARY OR NAVAL PURPOSES,<sup>1/</sup> BY STATE  
As of February 20, 1941

WPA Region and State	Number of Airport Sites	Estimated Cost from WPA and Sponsor's Funds <sup>2/</sup>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>344</u>	\$ <u>147,935,202</u>
CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES	<u>328</u>	<u>141,663,688</u>
REGION I	<u>44</u>	<u>17,437,696</u>
Connecticut	8	2,860,689
Maine	17	8,929,195
Massachusetts	11	3,252,066
New Hampshire	4	1,508,417
Rhode Island	1	394,011
Vermont	3	473,318
REGION II	<u>33</u>	<u>23,616,183</u>
Delaware	-	-
District of Columbia	4	4,922,254
Maryland	3	2,591,671
New Jersey	7	4,003,948
New York - Total	<u>11</u>	<u>4,117,319</u>
New York City	1	212,862
New York (Excl. NYC)	10	3,904,457
Pennsylvania	8	7,980,991
REGION III	<u>80</u>	<u>24,862,627</u>
Florida	45	13,680,520
Georgia	8	3,985,247
Kentucky	3	2,344,021
North Carolina	8	2,041,819
South Carolina	7	678,621
Tennessee	1	172,326
Virginia	8	1,958,123
REGION IV	<u>22</u>	<u>15,092,305</u>
Illinois	3	6,790,226
Indiana	2	1,347,505
Michigan	8	1,553,293
Missouri	2	564,924
Ohio	5	2,078,498
West Virginia	2	2,762,599
REGION V	<u>24</u>	<u>9,819,978</u>
Iowa	3	2,334,025
Kansas	4	845,071
Minnesota	4	2,367,920
Nebraska	2	812,630
North Dakota	4	888,677
South Dakota	3	177,260
Wisconsin	4	2,394,395
REGION VI	<u>40</u>	<u>16,891,182</u>
Alabama	9	4,617,847
Arkansas	1	552,989
Louisiana	5	3,201,805
Mississippi	4	2,369,063
Oklahoma	5	2,110,975
Texas	16	4,038,503
REGION VII	<u>32</u>	<u>15,162,569</u>
Colorado	3	4,138,397
Idaho	3	300,553
Montana	6	810,398
New Mexico	3	946,548
Utah	3	1,569,314
Washington	12	7,137,591
Wyoming	2	259,768
REGION VIII	<u>53</u>	<u>18,775,858</u>
Arizona	1	803,861
California - Total	<u>33</u>	<u>11,834,330</u>
Northern California	20	5,884,998
Southern California	13	5,949,332
Nevada	3	650,145
Oregon	16	5,487,522
TERRITORIES	<u>16</u>	<u>6,271,514</u>
Hawaii	7	2,149,842
Puerto Rico	6	3,343,221
Virgin Islands	3	778,451

<sup>1/</sup> Certified by the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes WPA funds allocated for projects operated by other Federal agencies but does not include Federal Agency funds for such projects.

NUMBER OF SITES AND AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURES, AIRPORT AND AIRWAY PROJECTS  
OPERATED BY THE WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

Cumulative Through December 31, 1940

WPA Region and State	Number of Airport Site	WPA and Sponsors' Funds <sup>A/</sup>
GRAND TOTAL	740	\$ 240,063,737
CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES	720	239,076,053
Region I - Total	<u>50</u>	<u>12,668,087</u>
Connecticut	6	2,877,889
Maine	14	2,253,900
Massachusetts	14	6,070,696
New Hampshire	6	996,221
Rhode Island	4	210,718
Vermont	4	258,663
Region II - Total	<u>70</u>	<u>94,305,880</u>
Delaware	1	-
District of Columbia	3	4,071,915
Maryland	4	1,148,263
New Jersey	11	6,461,766
New York - Total	<u>23</u>	<u>64,227,549</u>
New York City	3	56,328,578
New York(Excl. NYC)	20	7,898,971
Pennsylvania	33	18,396,387
Region III - Total	<u>150</u>	<u>24,969,169</u>
Florida	64	9,635,374
Georgia	23	2,308,650
Kentucky	4	639,774
North Carolina	16	2,734,475
South Carolina	15	2,702,042
Tennessee	11	5,295,904
Virginia	17	1,652,950
Region IV - Total	<u>122</u>	<u>35,578,363</u>
Illinois	10	12,717,727
Indiana	14	3,469,958
Michigan	65	4,016,788
Missouri	9	2,372,901
Ohio	16	9,874,417
West Virginia	8	3,126,572
Region V - Total	<u>65</u>	<u>14,767,153</u>
Iowa	6	2,245,913
Kansas	11	2,492,019
Minnesota	12	3,676,764
Nebraska	7	2,028,283
North Dakota	5	565,318
South Dakota	11	935,394
Wisconsin	13	2,827,462
Region VI - Total	<u>105</u>	<u>11,779,700</u>
Alabama	24	4,255,660
Arkansas	9	781,598
Louisiana	11	1,122,854
Mississippi	24	1,849,913
Oklahoma	8	938,414
Texas	29	2,831,261
Region VII - Total	<u>87</u>	<u>16,924,860</u>
Colorado	10	3,816,397
Idaho	6	959,554
Montana	20	1,257,109
New Mexico	6	1,052,120
Utah	9	2,758,446
Washington	27	6,734,082
Wyoming	9	347,142
Region VIII - Total	<u>65</u>	<u>28,082,841</u>
Arizona	4	568,232
California	39	23,342,391
Nevada	5	178,070
Oregon	17	3,994,158
Hawaii	15	855,516
Puerto Rico	8	132,168

A/ Includes data for off the site work covering such items as sewer and water lines and roadways vital to the operation of the airports, and aeronautical surveys.

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY  
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION  
Division of Statistics