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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Parallel Taxiway Underway at YXX**

**ABBOTSFORD May 21, 2010** – Work began today on the Abbotsford International Airport parallel taxiway project, announced Mayor George W Peary.

“This is a crucial project for the Abbotsford International Airport,” said Ed Fast, MP for Abbotsford. “Expanding transportation infrastructure and improving services will stimulate our local economy as well as attract investment to our region far into the future.”

The Abbotsford International Airport received \$30,000,000 for the construction of a parallel taxiway along the main runway. The project was made possible with grant funding from the Federal Government’s Building Canada Fund and the Provincial Government’s Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. Funding for the project is shared equally between Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments.

“The Abbotsford Airport is quickly becoming a major destination for many travellers arriving to our province,” said Solicitor General and Attorney General Mike de Jong. “Upgrades like this ensure that our region is where it needs to be to accommodate any amount of growth and expansion.”

The parallel taxiway will double the arrival rate on the main runways at the airport and will increase the airport’s capacity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing aircraft taxi times and delays. Additionally, the taxiway will improve international trade in the region by increasing the airport’s capacity to handle larger aircraft, typical of international flights.

“We have worked very closely with our Federal and Municipal partners to make these important capital projects a reality,” says John van Dongen MLA for Abbotsford South. “The expansion of the Abbotsford Airport will serve not only Abbotsford, but the whole Fraser Valley region.”

The Abbotsford International Airport serves a primary market of over 1.3 million regional travelers and is one of the fastest growing and most vital economic operations in Canada

“It is important to support our city’s vital infrastructure,” said Peary. “Abbotsford is a large and attractive city that encourages economic activity and offers great investment opportunities. By continuing to upgrade airport we are making room for even more of these opportunities.”

The parallel taxiway project must be complete by March 31, 2011 to be eligible for full federal government funding.

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