

SOUTH WALLER COUNTY AIRPORT MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release



CONSTRUCTION ON NEW HOUSTON AIRPORT IS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

(Near Houston, Texas – January 2, 2006) After decades of general aviation airports disappearing around the country, the Houston area is actually getting a new airport. South Waller County Airport developer WCF, LLC announced that general contractor Tribble & Stephens is well ahead of schedule on construction of the airport located between the Houston suburbs of Brookshire and Katy. In the first phase of construction, WCF is converting an existing private airstrip to a public access airport, and paving 4,500 feet of runway. The airport is expected to open in January 2007 and is designed to cater to business aviation and general aviation. As the airport grows, plans call for the runway to be extended to 7,000 feet to accommodate larger business jets.

General aviation includes every facet of aviation, except scheduled airline flights and military flight operations. While airlines only serve 660 airports in the United States, general aviation serves over 19,000 airports. General aviation includes business aviation, medical evacuation, law enforcement, search and rescue, aerial photography, electronic news gathering, flight training, recreational aviation and personal transportation, just to name a few. According to the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association, general aviation contributes over \$42 billion to the national economy annually.

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However, the United States has been losing airports every year and it is increasingly rare for new airports to be built. The problem of vanishing airports was dramatically exemplified by the destruction of Meigs Field, a famous general aviation airport located in downtown Chicago on the edge of Lake Michigan. At 1:30 a.m. on March 31, 2003, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley ordered bulldozers to destroy the airport in blatant violation of the Chicago's commitments to the federal government and the public.

"I was shocked by what happened to Meigs," explained WCF principal Ron Henriksen. "The destruction of Meigs, and the loss of so many airports around the country, like Houston's Andrau and Austin's Robert Mueller and Executive airports, really motivates me to build this new airport. I do not want government money involved in the airport now or in the future, because I think the only way to absolutely prevent a Meigs-type destruction of the airport at some point in the future is to keep the airport in private hands, funded by private investment."

Henriksen's vision is taking shape faster than expected. "We have had very good weather so far, and our dirt work and paving subcontractor, W.T. Byler Co., has brought significant resources to bear on the project," said Jay Tribble, a principal with general contractor Tribble & Stephens. "We are weeks ahead of schedule at this point."

"Everybody involved with the airport feels very fortunate. Most people will never see a new airport under construction. What we are doing is almost unheard of," airport spokesman Drew Coats commented.

Given the very unique nature of building a new airport, WCF is inviting members of the aviation press to tour the site and receive personal briefings on the project. Additional information about the airport is available at www.SouthWallerCountyAirport.com. For more information about the South Waller County Airport, for high resolution images or to arrange interviews please contact spokesman Drew Coats at 281-945-5444.

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