



CITY OF ANNISTON, ALABAMA

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CITY MANAGER
Matthew Caballero

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ANNISTON AWARDED \$18.49 MILLION GRANT FOR AIRPORT ENHANCEMENTS SUPPORTING ARMY DEPOT

ANNISTON, AL – The City of Anniston has been awarded an **\$18,492,378 federal grant through the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP)** to improve the primary runway at Anniston Regional Airport in support of Anniston Army Depot.

The grant will fund approximately 96.9% of the \$19,092,378 project, providing a significant investment in the community's aviation infrastructure, military readiness and opportunities for continued economic development.

"We have been working really hard to reimagine what our Anniston Regional Airport can be, not just for Anniston, but for this entire region," said Mayor Ciara Smith-Roston. "Our relationship with the Anniston Army Depot and Anniston Munitions has played an enormous role in that. We are working to make sure our airport is sustainable, economically viable, and able to support the needs of our community and our defense partners."

Smith-Roston credited City leadership and staff for advancing that vision. "There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to get to this point, and I have to give credit to our City Manager, Matthew Caballero, and our Economic Development Director and Airport Manager, Aaron Norris. They have worked hard to move this vision forward," she said. "I also want to thank the Anniston City Council for believing in this vision and supporting us every step of the way. It takes all of us working together to accomplish a task this grand."

"I am proud of the team we have and where we are headed," Smith-Roston added. "We have a lot more work to do, but I truly believe this is only the beginning for the Anniston Regional Airport."

The runway investment builds on the airport's existing role in supporting military traffic associated with Anniston Army Depot. The airport provides a measurable economic benefit. An Alabama Department of Transportation study published in December 2020, using data collected in 2018–2019, estimated that airport-related activity supported approximately \$4.57 million in annual economic activity, \$1.28 million in annual payroll and 44 jobs, including indirect and induced employment. These historical estimates provide a baseline for understanding the airport's economic contribution before the newly announced investment.

Improving the primary runway strengthens the infrastructure needed to serve aviation demand and pursue additional activity at the airport. This investment further expands opportunities for aviation businesses, fueling services, hangar use and spending at local hotels, restaurants and other businesses. Supporting military aviation needs while developing these broader opportunities can help the airport become an increasingly valuable driver of regional economic growth.

Anniston Regional Airport is a state-certified, unlimited-use general aviation facility located near Interstate 20 and highways 431, 21 and 78. Its existing asphalt runway measures 7,002 feet long and 150 feet wide. The airport also features more than 500,000 square feet of paved apron and ramp space, with services including hangars, aircraft tie-downs, flight instruction and aviation fuel.

Together, these assets provide an established foundation for continued airport development. The federal award will help the City improve that infrastructure while strengthening the airport's role in supporting Anniston Army Depot.

Administered by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, DCIP is a competitive federal grant program supporting community infrastructure projects that benefit military installations and their surrounding communities. Anniston's project is among 26 awards totaling approximately \$230 million in federal funding announced by the Department of War for fiscal year 2026.

Additional information about project scheduling and related public announcements will be shared as details are finalized. For information about Anniston Regional Airport, visit anniston.gov/airport. The federal announcement is available at <https://tinyurl.com/DefenseGrant>.

