



# News Release

Virgin Islands Port Authority  
Office of the Executive Director  
Public Relations Department  
P.O. Box 301707  
St. Thomas, VI 00803

Tel: (340) 774-1629  
Tel: (340) 714-6640 / 714-6639  
Fax: (340) 714-1492/ 774-0025  
E-mail: [info@viport.com](mailto:info@viport.com)  
Internet: [www.viport.com](http://www.viport.com)

**For Immediate Release**  
August 09, 2010

**Contact:** Monifa A. Marrero  
Public Information Officer  
Cell: (340) 244-1065

## **FIRST 1,200 FEET OF CEKA RUNWAY CLOSED TO REPAIR DISPLACED PAVEMENT (Revised)**

Virgin Islands Port Authority Executive Director Kenn Hobson announced that VIPA has closed the first 1,200 feet of the Cyril E. King Airport runway to repair damaged pavement. Hobson said that fresh pavement placed on the runway this morning was dislodged after an American Airlines jet departed at around 9 a.m.. VI Port Authority engineering, maintenance and fire department officials were on the scene immediately with the project contractor, VI Paving, Inc., to repair the section that was affected by the blowout.

Hobson anticipates that the closure might cause delays for the larger airlines. "Larger jets that require the entire length of the runway may not be able to depart. A Delta flight scheduled to depart from CEKA at [8:30 a.m.](#) bound for Atlanta is delayed but plans to depart within the next 20 minutes. Smaller aircraft are being permitted to take-off and land," he said. Hobson added that VIPA apologizes for the disruption, but that the closure is necessary to ensure the safety of the traveling public and aircrafts.

**(more)**

CEKA only has one 7,000-foot long by 150-foot wide runway. It is being completely overlaid for the first time since its construction in 1991. The airport runway overlay project is being conducted from 10 p.m. through 5:30 a.m. each day. The repaired sections of the runway are tested daily for compliance with the project specifications by a testing firm certified by the Construction Material Engineering Council, Inc. The project is expected to be completed by December 2010, and costs \$15 million - 95 percent of which is funded by the FAA via an Airport Improvement Project grant and the remaining five percent funded by the VI Port Authority.

###