



# News Release

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## **VIPA Begins HERA Runway Repaving on St. Croix and Wraps Up CEKA Runway Paving on St. Thomas**

The Virgin Islands Port Authority has substantially completed the paving of the Cyril E. King Airport Runway on St. Thomas and has now begun the paving of the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport Runway on St. Croix, announced VIPA Executive Director Kenn Hobson.

Hobson said that Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspectors found several areas of pavement failure in the runway at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport in an annual certification inspection last year. "The majority of the runway that is being repaired was last resurfaced in the 1970's. The repairs are necessary to ensure the safety of travelers and aircraft using the Rohlsen airport," said Hobson.

Work began last night and should take about 270 days to complete. The Port Authority hired VI Paving, Inc. to perform the work which will be done six days a week from 10 p.m. through 5 a.m. Mondays thru Saturdays. VIPA was awarded a \$7.1 million Airport Improvement Project (AIP) grant from the FAA to fund the design and construction phases of the project. The FAA will fund 95 percent of the project and VIPA will fund five percent from its fiscal year 2011 capital improvements budget.

**(more)**

Repairs of the Cyril E. King Airport Runway, which began in March 2010, are about 95 percent finished. The project will be closed out after the completion of some minor electrical work within the next few weeks, said Hobson. The entire project cost approximately \$15 million and was also performed by VI Paving, Inc.

Hobson said VIPA has more plans for improvements of its St. Thomas airport, and is currently using an \$819,851 FAA grant received in March 2010 to conduct a passenger terminal study and pavement maintenance management plan for CEKA. The pavement management plan will identify short-term and long-range maintenance and rehabilitation requirements, along with maintenance policies and a budget for maintenance costs. Hobson said the pavement program will provide VIPA with a maintenance schedule for the King runway and maximize the consistency and reliability of the runway pavement for another 20 years. The grant also provides funding for a terminal study to examine the entire CEKA terminal foot print and recommend a reorganization/expansion plan to include expansion in phases and a financial program to fund the improvements.

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