



# News Release

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**For Immediate Release**  
June 21, 2011

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## **FAA Awards \$1.5 Million Grant to VI Port Authority for CEKA Improvements and \$2.7 Million for HERA Runway Overlay Project**

Virgin Islands Port Authority Executive Director Kenn Hobson announced today that the VI Port Authority has received a \$1,480,795 entitlement grant from the Federal Aviation Administration to improve runway safety at the Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas.

Hobson said that the grant was awarded based on an application made by VIPA to fund several CEKA projects including a runway safety area determination study, terminal building roof repairs, and the design phases for the rehabilitation of the general aviation apron and Taxiway A.

"The amount awarded is not enough to cover all four items as requested, but the Port Authority is grateful for any amount of financial assistance the FAA can provide." Hobson added that VIPA's Engineering Director Dale Gregory plans to meet with the FAA this week to discuss possible ways all the improvements needed at CEKA could be funded.

**(more)**

The VI Port Authority also received a \$2,661,167 entitlement grant from the FAA in May 2011 to complete phases two and three of the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport Runway 10/28 Rehabilitation Project on St. Croix, which involves the reconstruction of the runway blast pad and permanent marking and pavement grooving of the runway. The amount awarded is 95 percent of the total cost; VIPA will fund the remaining five percent from its budget. Work began on January 30<sup>th</sup> and is about 73 percent complete.

The Port Authority hired VI Paving, Inc. to perform the work at HERA which is done six days a week from 10 p.m. through 5 a.m. Mondays through Saturdays. VIPA was previously awarded a \$7.1 million Airport Improvement Project (AIP) grant from the FAA to fund the design and 95 percent of construction phase one of the HERA Runway Overlay project.

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