

\$1.75 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT AWARD FOR THE RALEIGH CO. MEMORIAL AIRPORT INDUSTRIAL PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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BECKLEY, WV – In an announcement on Thursday, June 4th, Governor Jim Justice announced Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding has been awarded to Raleigh County Memorial Airport.

In Raleigh County, \$1.75 Million dollars was awarded to Raleigh County Memorial Airport, in partnership with the Raleigh County Commission, Region 1 Planning & Development Council and New River Gorge Regional Development Authority (NRGRDA), to benefit the Raleigh County Memorial Airport Industrial Park Site Preparation Project.

These funds, part of a total \$8.4 Million dollar project, will be utilized to expand necessary infrastructure and further site readiness efforts of the West side of the industrial park for development of 105 additional acres intended for new business attraction. Of that acreage, 72 acres of runway-adjacent property is dedicated to attracting the emerging aerospace industry to the New River Gorge Region.

“Securing this funding is a huge step towards changing the narrative of new business attraction in the State of WV,” said Jina Belcher, NRGRDA Deputy Director. “We appreciate the support and recognition from the State and the Appalachian Regional Commission for much-needed site development and look forward to moving the needle for future site readiness efforts.”

In 2019, Raleigh County Memorial Airport and the surrounding 7-county region (Raleigh, Fayette, Nicholas, Summers, Wyoming, Mercer & McDowell) were officially certified as AEROready™. The AEROready™ certification validates that a community / region is ready for the aerospace industry; that there is an ample supply of labor and quality sites; opportunities to customize training of labor; and that utility and transportation infrastructure is in place.

“This is a 20-year vision that is finally coming to fruition. The investment from the State and the Appalachian Regional Commission will allow the attraction and growth of the aerospace industry right here in Raleigh County. We’re thrilled to finally be able move this project forward.” said Tom Cochran, Raleigh County Memorial Airport Manager.

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About New River Gorge Regional Development Authority (NRGRDA):

The New River Gorge Regional Development Authority’s mission is to initiate, facilitate and support the economic and community development efforts within the counties of Fayette, Nicholas, Raleigh and Summers located in this region of southern West Virginia. NRGRDA stimulates the regional economy through business expansion and retention efforts, including an extensive portfolio of financial services; the management of sites for new companies locating to our region; and serving as a point of access for local service providers which offer a variety of technical assistance for business owners.