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Wilmington Air Park poised for redevelopment

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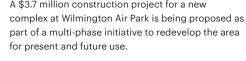
A \$3.7 million construction project for a new complex at a Clinton County air park is being proposed as part of a multi-phase initiative to redevelop the area for present and future use.

The proposal centers around the construction of an updated airport facilities and equipment maintenance complex, as well as spec office space, at the Wilmington Air Park.

The currently facility is 50 years old, and is in need of some major upgrades.

"Given advances in equipment diagnostics and facility management systems, it is important to provide the staff with the facilities and technology necessary to maintain airport and real estate management and maintenance services at the highest level, so as to retain and attract aviation-related and other

A \$3.7 million construction project for a new



The port authority is helping finance the project, and is requesting additional funds from the state of Ohio.

Relocating the facilities and equipment maintenance complex will facilitate the first phase of a redevelopment plan for Wilmington Air Park, Evers said.

tenants," said Daniel Evers, executive director of the Clinton County Port Authority.

This process would include the demolition of existing, outdated facilities currently located on a portion of the air park property, in an effort to create a clean development site for new construction of industrial, office, and aviation-related facilities.

Ultimately, the project would yield an approximately 37-acre development site.

Currently, the air park is home to 12 companies with more than 1,200 employees. And the area continues to grow, according to Evers, who noted that 700 jobs and four businesses were housed at the air park when the port authority acquired the property.

"The Wilmington Air Park continues to attract new attention of potential businesses, as well as the growth of existing, on-site tenants," Evers said. "This facility will enhance the ability to do more work and...attract new customers, all while continuing to provide the growing on-site tenant population with more cost-effective service."

To help pay for the project, the port authority is seeking \$1.8 million in state capital budget funding.

The organization recently submitted a funding application through the Dayton Region Priority Development and Advocacy Committee — staffed by the Dayton Development Coalition — which evaluated the request along with dozens of others.

PDAC has submitted the applications it has chosen to state legislators, who will decide which projects will be funded through the state budget. The process is expected to be completed in April.

The committee has already expressed interest in helping fund the project, as it ranked the Wilmington complex as its fifth-highest priority among all projects classified as "rural."

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