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Airport to receive more than \$1.63M in federal grants

by: Staff Reports
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Lincoln County has been notified that it has been awarded more than \$1.63 million in grant funds for infrastructure improvements that could help bring jobs to the area.

U.S. Sen. Richard Burr's Office notified the community this week of its approval for the Community Trade Adjustment Assistance (CTAA) Grant through the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

According to a county press release, "The grant will be used to construct sewer improvements for the Lincolnton-Lincoln County Regional Airport.

"The County and the City of Lincolnton will have to provide only a 5 percent match (\$85,876) to cover the total \$1,717,500 cost of the project."

The county, city and the Airport Authority submitted the application for these funds in April in collaboration with the Lincoln County Economic Development Association.

"This grant will allow us to construct 7,500 feet of gravity main, lift station, and 2.5 miles of forced main sewer improvements to serve Phase I of the Airport Business Park," the county press release said.

"The wastewater will be treated at the City of Lincolnton's wastewater treatment plant. It will open up approximately 20 sites for corporate headquarters and light industrial operations, including areas such as motor sports or aerospace. Businesses locating in this park will be water customers of Lincoln County and sewer customers of the City of Lincolnton. It is anticipated that construction of the sewer improvements would be completed by March, 2012.

"The Economic Development Administration offered this grant opportunity to small to medium size communities who had experienced significant job losses connected to foreign trade.

"Coupled with the new 8-inch water line installed last year to the airport, and the new airport terminal building that opened this spring, this sewer system is the final component to allowing development of the airport authority's property and surrounding property for future employment opportunities."