Runway Safety Area construction to begin
Temporary traffic detours will be necessary

This summer, construction will begin on Milwaukee County General Mitchell International Airport’s Runway Safety Area (RSA) improvement project. This multi-year project will bring the RSAs for each of the airport’s two main runways into compliance with FAA regulations.

The RSA is an area at the end of the runway which, in this case, is 1,000 feet long, 500 feet wide, and free of all obstructions, including roadways.

This summer, work will be concentrated on 6th Street (the west end of the east–west runway), and on College Avenue (the south end of the north–south runway).

Work at each location is described within.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE
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College Avenue
A 640-foot long tunnel will be constructed on College Avenue so that the RSA can span over the road without conflicting with traffic. The Milwaukee County Highway Department will also reconstruct College Avenue (CTH ZZ) and expand it to a 4-lane roadway. Construction of the tunnel is expected to take longer than the College Avenue roadway improvements, and will begin in 2009, while construction of the roadway project will begin in the spring of 2010. A bypass road will carry traffic around the tunnel construction area so that there is access to College Avenue for the longest amount of time. Traffic will be rerouted onto the bypass road beginning in late September 2009, and will be maintained on that route through the spring of 2010. (green route)

College Avenue traffic will be detoured around the construction area for about two weeks in September to allow the contractor to connect the bypass road to existing College Avenue. (pink route)

In the spring of 2010, College Avenue between Pennsylvania Road and Howell Avenue – including the bypass road – will be closed to through traffic while the road reconstruction is completed and additional tunnel construction takes place. Traffic will be detoured on Howell, Layton, and Pennsylvania Avenues. (pink route)

After completion of the road widening project, the bypass road will again be opened while the tunnel is completed. (green route)

South 6th Street
Projects on the west side of the airport include the realignment of South 6th Street between College Avenue and the airport spur. South 6th Street will be realigned to the west, outside of the Runway Safety Area of the east–west runway. (orange route)

Access to Amtrak will remain open from the north for entire project. There will be limited closures of South 6th Street for utility work, which will prohibit access to the Amtrak facility from the south.

Schedule

June 2009 – Sixth Street realignment begins. Access to Amtrak will be maintained throughout project from the north. Periodic closures from the south. (orange route)

September 2009 – Traffic will be rerouted away from College Avenue for about 2 weeks in September. (pink route)

September 2009 to May 2010 – Traffic will be rerouted to the bypass road as the tunnel is constructed. (green route)

May to December 2010 – Traffic will be detoured around the airport as the county reconstructs College Avenue and tunnel construction continues. (pink route)

December 2010 until tunnel completion – Traffic will be rerouted to the bypass road until the tunnel on College Avenue is completed. (green route)

Schedule is subject to change due to weather conditions or construction issues.