

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 21, 2026

Mr. Daniel J. Edwards
Associate Administrator for Airports
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

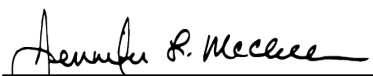
Dear Associate Administrator Edwards:

We write today to express our strong support for the Capital Region Airport Commission, an applicant for a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Terminal Program grant to build a Consolidated Passenger Screening Checkpoint, which is needed to accommodate the record number of passengers using Richmond International Airport (RIC).

RIC's terminal was designed in 2003, more than 20 years ago, and has checkpoints at each of its two concourses. While this design was workable for many years, demand and flight volume at RIC have grown significantly and the airport now handles twice as many passengers today as it did in 2003. RIC experienced record passenger traffic in 2024 and is looking to increase its number of long-distance and international flights. This increased traffic can cause a serious imbalance at the checkpoints, with long lines at one concourse and short lines at the other, particularly during peak hours. The dual checkpoints also create complications for passengers transferring at RIC who may need to move from one terminal to the other for a connecting flight. A large, consolidated checkpoint will eliminate these problems and provide greater screening capacity and efficiency, shorter lines, and better, faster access to the gates.

We appreciate that the FAA provided an FY 2025 Airport Terminal Program grant to RIC for the design of this important project. Given the high cost of the construction work and RIC's clear need for a new, consolidated checkpoint, we ask that the FAA give full and fair consideration for funding for the construction of this project, which will benefit both Richmond and the greater Central Virginia area by providing a larger, modern Consolidated Passenger Screening Checkpoint that meets current and projected needs. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



John J. McGuire III
Member of Congress