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## **Gary / Chicago International Airport Awards \$15 Million Contract for Construction of Cargo and General Aviation Ramp**

*Contract is Largest Awarded Since 2015 Extension of Airport's Main Runway*

(Gary, IN – August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025) – The [Gary / Chicago International Airport \(GCI\)](#) has awarded Superior Construction Co. a \$15 million bid to construct the airport's new Cargo and General Aviation Ramp. This new infrastructure will take approximately five (5) months to complete and occupy 8.5 acres of concrete ramp over a 50-acre site. This contract represents the largest awarded by the airport since the 2015 expansion of the airport's main runway and will enable 85 well-paying construction jobs for the duration of its buildout. This bid represents another significant milestone in GCI's cargo service expansion efforts for 2025, following its [\\$925,000 property acquisition of 4.7 acres of land that was announced in April](#) of this year. 2025 marks the second consecutive year of substantial evolution of GCI's growing cargo sector, following the airport's [2024 announcement of Phase 1 of its long-term expansion of their cargo logistics sector](#).

"This bid is a significant step forward in the evolution of our increasingly important cargo and logistics sector, which has seen tremendous growth since it first launched less than 5 years ago," **said Dan Vicari, Executive Director of GCI**. "The contract will not only enable future aviation operation expansion but will further the airport's mission of being an economic engine for Northwest Indiana and support working families throughout the area."

GCI has seen extensive growth since 2015, starting with the expansion of the airport's main runway to nearly 9,000 feet, making it the second longest runway in the region after O'Hare International Airport. This expansion has allowed the airport to service larger, heavier aircraft. [GCI opened its U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(CBP\) facility in 2018](#), allowing air travelers from any international destination to frequent the airport without needing to clear customs elsewhere.

In 2020, [GCI began cargo service operations via UPS](#), who signed a long-term lease agreement. Cargo service operations have quickly scaled, and GCI now ranks 3rd in the State of Indiana for its freight volume, with further growth anticipated in coming years. In 2022, [GCI received formal Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\) approvals for its Master Plan](#), a long-term planning document that will guide the next several decades of airport aviation and growth. In late 2023, [GCI announced its acquisition of the Griffith-Merrillville Airport](#), making GCI one of only three aviation "systems" in the State of Indiana.

2024 saw multiple milestones reached, including [unveiling its new website](#), breaking ground on a new [\\$12 million, 47,000 square foot aviation hangar](#) as well as breaking ground on ["Phase 1" of a planned \\$67 million cargo services infrastructure investment](#) that will boost its growing cargo sector. This effort coincided with the [airport agreeing to a long-term extension with UPS](#), further enlarging the airports cargo capacity. The year also saw the airport awarded a [\\$1.7 million Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\) grant](#) to design and engineer a new, state-of-the-art airport traffic control tower.

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