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## **Gary / Chicago International Airport Secures Final \$8.3 Million Federal Grant for New Air Traffic Control Tower**

*Grant Represents Final Step in Multi-Year Funding Process to Deliver New \$18.3 Million Air Traffic Control Tower*

**(Gary, IN – August 27, 2026)** – The [Gary / Chicago International Airport \(GCIAG\)](#) announced it has received an additional \$8.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) via its Airport Improvement Program (AIP) for the construction of the airport's new Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT). The award represents the final funding component for the project following the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) award of a [\\$10 million grant in May 2026](#). Together, the two federal awards provide the full \$18.3 million needed to construct the new tower. Construction is expected to begin later this year and will employ approximately 120 skilled trade workers over an estimated 24,000 construction hours. The project is anticipated to be completed by late 2027.

"This \$8.3 million grant represents the successful completion of a process that began several years ago to ensure GCIAG has the most modern infrastructure possible to support future aviation growth," **said GCIAG Executive Director Dan Vicari**. "Over the past decade, GCIAG has made significant investments to modernize our infrastructure, and replacing our current tower has remained a key priority to ensure we are equipped to meet the demands of modern aviation. We are very grateful for the support of the Chicago Airport's District Office of the FAA and to Congressman Frank Mrvan, who has been a strong champion for the airport and instrumental in helping secure this funding."

The \$8.3 million grant is the culmination of a multi-year process that began in 2022 and will result in the replacement of the airport's existing Air Traffic Control Tower, which has been in operation since 1972. In September 2024, the airport received [FAA approvals for the required siting study](#), and in December 2024 [announced a \\$1.7 million FAA grant for the design and engineering](#) of the new tower. Together, the FAA's 2024 design and engineering grant, the 2026 Federal Contract Tower Program award, and this latest Airport Improvement Program grant represent the successful completion of a four-year effort to plan, design, fund, and construct a replacement tower for GCIAG.

"Thank you to Mayor Melton and all of the leaders with the Gary / Chicago International Airport and the U.S. Department of Transportation for this critical additional federal investment in the airport's new Air Traffic Control Tower," **said Congressman Frank J. Mrvan (IN-1st)**. "I appreciate the consistent long-term planning and initiatives of the airport to enhance its infrastructure and services, which will continue to attract new economic activity to the City of Gary and our region. Let us build on this positive momentum to create more work and wealth for everyone in Northwest Indiana."

The new tower will be approximately 50 feet taller than the existing structure and will feature modern technologies designed to improve visibility, communications, operational efficiency and safety for air traffic controllers and airport users. The new facility will be well positioned to support increasing aircraft operations while ensuring GCIAG can accommodate future growth.



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**About Gary / Chicago International Airport**

Gary / Chicago International Airport serves as a critical transportation and economic development asset for Northwest Indiana and the greater Chicago region. Located just 25 miles from downtown Chicago, the airport supports corporate aviation, cargo operations, aircraft maintenance, and aerospace-related economic growth while providing direct access to one of the nation's largest metropolitan markets.