

***“Smart and fiscally responsible investments in our roads, bridges and airports lead to private-sector job creation” says Walz***

**Rochester, MN** – Congressman Walz toured the Rochester International Airport with community and business leaders today to discuss the regional transportation priorities that are critical to spur continued private-sector economic growth in southeastern Minnesota. Walz, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, was joined by representatives of the airport, the City of Rochester, Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, Rochester Area Economic Development Inc and the Mayo Clinic.

**“Rochester is a major medical destination that is poised to continue growing economically and adding good-paying private-sector jobs,”** said Walz. **“Smart and fiscally responsible investments in our economic infrastructure like this airport lead to private-sector job creation in and around Rochester.”**

Rochester International Airport is a non-hub primary airport currently serviced by American Airlines and Delta Airlines. In November 2012, Allegiant Airlines will also begin providing service to the region. The airport recently received a \$500,000 Department of Transportation grant that will be used with a local \$250,000 match to aid in the expansion of its services to meet the future regional growth needs. Fed Ex, which houses a large air operation at the airport, is also undergoing a major expansion with the construction of a new 60,000-square foot ground services facility in nearby Stewartville.

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