



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Burlington, MA 01803-5299

March 11, 2002

Mr. Michael Cheston  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island Airport Corporation  
2000 Post Road  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02886-1533

TEXT FROM FAA LETTER TO RIAC.  
ORIGINAL WAS SIGNED BY VINCE  
SCARANO

Dear Mr. Cheston:

Thank you for your letter of February 27, concerning the reconstruction of Runway 16/34. As you pointed out in your letter, the constraints on that runway are significant, with both a major roadway intersection on one runway end and a wetland on the other end. At the time of runway reconstruction, we will require that the airport provide standard runway safety areas acceptable to the Federal Aviation Administrator.

The FAA safety area design standard for that runway is 500' x 1000'. FAA Regulation Part 139.309 states:

“To the extent practicable, each certificate holder shall provide and maintain for each runway and taxiway which is available for air carrier use. If construction, reconstruction, or significant expansion of the runway or taxiway began on or after January 1, 1988, a safety area which conforms to the dimensions acceptable to the Administrator at the time construction, reconstruction or expansion began.”

The pavement on Runway 16-34 is over thirty years old and will need to be rehabilitated to restore its useful life. FAA will require the Rhode Island Airport Corporation to comply with the requirement for safety area improvement at the time of reconstruction. It appears likely that the safety areas will impact the wetlands off of the extended centerline on Runway 34 due to their close proximity.

We encourage you to do what you can to move forward on this important safety issue.

Sincerely,

Vincent A. Scarano  
Director, Airports Division

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