

Economic Impacts of Complementary Roadway and Airport Expansions

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Regional economic growth can be bolstered by leveraging airport capacity expansion with development of additional highway capacity. The authors have examined combined roadway and airside airport improvements, consisting of widening highways, expanding runways and upgrading navigational aids. Combined, these programs reduce average access time to airports, increase road reliability to those airports, increase airside capacity through longer runway, which eliminates need for some air cargo to be trucked longer distances and reduce aircraft delay. In turn, benefits show that existing roadway access to the airport is faster for both car and truck, reducing delays. With the improved roadway and longer runway, freight carriers achieve better returns to scale, lowering costs to shippers, leading to increased international exports of air dependent industries. Moreover, new business activity is enabled through more and better connections through the airport.