



*Briefing Paper:*  
**U.S. Customs & Border Protection  
Federal Inspection Station**

## Overview

Brown County and Austin Straubel International Airport (GRB) in Green Bay, Wisconsin are seeking a full-service U.S. Customs and Border Protection Federal Inspection Station (FIS) with full-time staffing for commercial operations. Currently, there is a small, limited service U.S. Customs Border Protection office in Green Bay that is not meeting current needs and will not be able to handle an expansion of international services.

The effort to secure an FIS was announced in late September 2012 at a joint news conference held by Brown County officials, Austin Straubel Airport leadership and 8th District Wisconsin Congressman Reid Ribble. The proposal calls for building and staffing a \$7.5 million, 20,000 square foot FIS facility with fulltime U.S. Customs and Border Protection Services (USCBP) staffing to clear international flights. The Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Green Bay Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and numerous other business and civic groups, along with the area's leading businesses and corporations, are all supporting the effort.

## Why It's Needed

Economic development is at the heart of every community. A full service FIS will create jobs, enhance business development, create business opportunities and serve the community at large.

Additionally, such a facility is needed at Austin Straubel International Airport for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to:

- The USCBP has provided written notice that it will relocate off-airport unless a passenger processing facility is provided. An off-airport location would diminish the ability to expand the Airport's international operations.
- Commercial airlines have expressed the desire to offer international flights to and from Green Bay. A fully staffed FIS facility on site is required for such flights.
- Internationally scheduled and commercial charter operations are contingent upon the ability of the USCBP to process passengers from larger commercial aircraft.
- Current USCBP processing of international passengers at Green Bay's two Fixed-Base Operators (FBO) does not meet current needs of the USCBP. There are more than 330 foreign aircraft arrivals annually as well as the processing of more than 48,000 international passengers.
- Located among three major international hubs— Chicago, Detroit and Minneapolis — Austin Straubel is in an excellent location for delay/diversion operations to meet the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Section 42301, which requires deplanement of international passengers.
- Currently, in addition to its aviation duties, the USCBP located at Austin Straubel International Airport serves the entire Northeast Wisconsin area, processing more than 100 marine vessels annually at such ports as Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, Marinette/ Menominee and Manitowoc.
- Air service to the region is an important component of local economic development.

## Economic Impacts of a New FIS

An FIS will play an important role in the economic development efforts of the community.

- A full-service FIS will bring 46 additional jobs in the local airline and tourism industries.
- The addition of the FIS will provide an annual economic impact of nearly \$2.5 million to Northeast Wisconsin.
- Austin Straubel International Airport currently contributes more than \$111 million to the economy of Northeast Wisconsin.
- Airlines/Tour Operators could add international leisure destinations to/from Austin Straubel.
- As home airport for the National Football League's Green Bay Packers, USCBP processing of international commercial charter flights is vital to the regional economy as the league expands its international game schedule. Green Bay is the only NFL city without such capability.

## About Austin Straubel

Austin Straubel International Airport (ASIA) is an international port of entry (Port Code 3703), with a small U.S. Customs and Border Protection office.

- ASIA is the state's third largest airport, serving all of Northeast Wisconsin and portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.
- ASIA is one of only two commercial airports in Wisconsin with international status.
- 2011 passenger demand analysis indicates the airport already handles more than 48,000 international commercial passengers annually.

- Green Bay's location on the Great Circle Route from Europe and Asia already offers a convenient first stop for general and corporate aviation international travelers.

## What's Need to Make an FIS Happen

Development of an FIS is eligible for funding under the FAA's Airport Improvement Program; but it won't "just happen" without support.

- Strong public support from businesses and the community, as well as local governments, is needed to make the case for funding.
- In addition we need, and already have, strong support from our Congressional delegation.
- Brown County and Austin Straubel have already invested \$300,000 in infrastructure improvements; Austin Straubel has a USDA-approved international solid waste handling facility.

## We Need Your Support

Please send your letter of support to:  
Congressman Reid Ribble  
1513 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

You can also email Congressman Ribble  
Visit his website: [www.ribble.house.gov](http://www.ribble.house.gov)  
and click on the "contact me" button on the upper right of your screen.

Need help with your letter? A sample letter can be found at ASIA's website: [www.FlyGRB.com](http://www.FlyGRB.com)  
Click on "About Us" then "News." Feel free to use all or some of the sample letter. Please send a copy of your email or letter to the contact below.

## Questions? Contact:

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