

# NEWS

For Immediate Release

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## **WILLISTON BASIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT READYING FOR LIFTOFF**

**Public groundbreaking ceremony slated for October 10th; Governor and numerous other officials to preside at historic event**

Williston, North Dakota (October 7, 2016) - The long-awaited start of the Williston Basin International Airport is finally here as the official groundbreaking of the \$250 million facility is slated for Monday, October 10 on the approximate site of the eventual terminal. FAA, state and local elected officials will preside over the special ceremony, which is also open to the public.

“This is an historic chapter in the history book for Williston and we couldn’t be more excited,” said Howard Klug, long-time mayor of Williston. “Many people have worked very hard to bring us to this point in time and I thank them one and all.”

The groundbreaking event, which is scheduled for 3:30 pm, will be located on the 1,500 acres that will become home to the new airport, northwest of the city and just off of County Road 7. Initial contracts have already been awarded for the first phase, including the construction of the terminal building foundation, preliminary construction of roads and staging areas, and the rerouting of 59<sup>th</sup> Street. It is expected that the airport will be operational in mid-2019.

The new airport, known by its FAA-designated call letters, XWA, will be two stories and span 110,000 square feet. It will feature an escalator, full-service restaurant, gift shop and other comfortable lounges to wait for arriving and departing travelers.

“We are very excited about our new airport as it will be essential for the continued economic growth of Williston and the entire northwestern region of North Dakota,” said Shawn Wenko, director of economic development for the city.

For more information about the emerging Williston Basin International Airport, visit [www.xwaproject.com](http://www.xwaproject.com).

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