

# Construction of new Ames airport hangar begins

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Construction crews have officially broken ground on a new \$1.1 million hangar at the Ames Municipal Airport that will have the capacity to house multiple airplanes.

Work on the hangar began last Monday with the erection of a steel frame that president and CEO of the Ames Economic Development Commission Dan Culhane said will serve as an inviting entrance to the city of Ames.

“The hangar’s real purpose is for those transient or visiting aircraft that come in and need to pull out of the weather at all times of the year,” Culhane said.

The building is expected to be completed in four to five weeks and it will be an 11,400-square-foot facility with a primary usage of short-term storage for visiting aircraft.

In a written statement, Culhane said that the hangar will serve business-owners or decision-makers for companies looking to locate or expand visits Ames. In an interview Culhane expanded on that idea.

“A good percentage is just university business. People coming in to see a faculty member or the research park sees a fair amount of visits with corporate aircraft. We’ve got a number of companies that have operations here in Ames and Story County where their parent company is located some place else and not always, but often times, that parent company has a private aircraft and so you’ll see private aircraft coming in for that reason,” Culhane said.

Culhane said that the AEDC will also continue to work on the second phase of the project which will consist of constructing a new terminal facility to go with the hangar. According to Culhane, the city will start taking bids on that project in the spring and construction for the terminal could begin as soon as mid-summer.

The terminal will include a passenger lounge for 40 to 50 people, conference room and training area along with updated amenities for passengers and pilots including a coffee bar, rental car area, kitchenette and restrooms. When completed, the terminal will be around 6,900 square feet.

“The neat thing about the terminal is that that’s going to be a really impressive front door for people visiting our community through the airport,” Culhane said. “It will be something that represents the Ames, Story County and Iowa State University community very well.”

Fundraising for phase two of the project has already begun with the AEDC making a \$250,000 commitment to fund the project. The city of Ames and ISU have both agreed to do the same.

“That phase of our fundraising is underway. We’ve raised about \$50,000 of that piece right now with about \$200,000 to go and we’re hoping to wrap that up, like any fundraising effort, as soon as possible,” Culhane said.