OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Milwaukee County

SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 13, 2006

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Walker Announces Completion of Concourse C Stem Expansion at General Mitchell International Airport;

Artist Carlos Alves' Lively Terrazzo Floor Gives Visitors a "Sense of Place"

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN – Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker today announced the completion of a $17 million expansion of the Concourse C "stem" at General Mitchell International Airport. The project adds 31,000 sq ft to Concourse C, increasing its area to 96,000 sq ft.

Improvements created by the renovation include:

- wider area and increased throughput capacity for the security checkpoint,
  - one security screening lane added, for a total of three lanes
- larger airline gate seating areas,
- a wider corridor between gates,
- atrium and clerestory windows that let in more natural light
- remodeled food, beverage and retail areas

In addition, the project prepares Concourse C for an eight-gate addition that is now under construction, and on-schedule to open next summer.

Walker said the renovation will further enhance the airport's appeal to business and leisure travelers. "Mitchell International Airport serves as the front door to our region. This renovation will further enhance the airport's, and the region's, reputation as an efficient, attractive, and friendly destination," he said.

Airport Director Barry Bateman said Mitchell International is preparing for the growth in numbers of passengers and flights forecast as part of the airport's Master Plan. In 2005, a record number of passengers, 7.3 million, used Mitchell, an increase of more than nine percent over 2004. Bateman attributes the strong growth in part "to increased use of Mitchell as an alternative to O'Hare, both for residents of the northern Chicago suburbs and for out-of-state visitors to northern Illinois."

Artist Carlos Alves designed the terrazzo and ceramic tile floor that extends the length of the concourse. The floor gives visitors a "sense of place" by depicting the rural-to-urban view of southeastern Wisconsin as seen from the window of an airplane. (More information about the artwork is on page 2).

The C stem renovation marks the second of six major concourse remodeling projects to be completed at the airport. The first, which added two lanes (for a total of six) and widened the security checkpoint on Concourse D, was completed in December 2004. The third, which adds one lane (for a total of four) to the security checkpoint on Concourse E, will be completed later this month. A project that will widen and add ground-level boarding gates to the Concourse D stem will be finished later this year, as will a reconfiguration of the Concourse E stem. The final project is the above-referenced eight-gate addition.

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Concourse C Artwork Information

MKE travelers are walking on art. Acclaimed artist Carlos Alves is transforming the main corridor of the recently remodeled Concourse C into a work of art that gives visitors a sense of discovery about the region. The project is part of Milwaukee County's One Percent for the Arts program.

Alves' design, an abstract aerial view of southeastern Wisconsin, created in terrazzo, blankets the length of the concourse's floor. Colorful mosaic tile medallions, set throughout the floor, feature close-ups of scenery common to southeastern Wisconsin. Once completed, the tiled masterpiece will provide a sweeping artistic representation of the rural-to-urban views a traveler might see from an airplane window while flying into Milwaukee's Mitchell Airport. From farm fields and lake country, set in warm tones, to the downtown streets and buildings, and finally a lake of cool blue, representing the Lake Michigan waterfront, the elaborate tile imagery celebrates the region's beautiful landscape and rich history.

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