



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2009
2009-61

Contact: Julie Hasquet, Press Secretary
(907) 258-9304 office
(907) 350-4846 cell

**Ouzinkie & King Salmon Airports Gets Funding Through
Economic Recovery Package**

Millions released for new airport in Ouzinkie, improvements in King Salmon

The village of Ouzinkie, Alaska is on its way to getting a long-awaited new airport thanks to a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The U.S. Department of Transportation today announced the award of \$15 million for stage one of the airport and a new road to the airport.

“The residents of Ouzinkie have waited a long time for this money to build a badly-needed new airport,” Sen. Mark Begich said. “In addition to the increased public safety brought about by the project, it will create dozens of construction jobs and bring an economic boost to the area just as the economic recovery package is intended.”

The Village of Ouzinkie is located approximately 12 miles north of the city of Kodiak. Its current airport is roughly 30 years old and, as the town has built up around it, there are concerns about safety and clearance. The project will be underway this construction season.

The DOT also announced an award of nearly \$10 million for the airport in King Salmon. That money will be used to repair aprons and taxiways at the airport.

Sen. Begich voted for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which was approved by Congress and signed by President Obama in February. Alaska is in line to receive close to \$1 billion with 8,000 jobs to be created or sustained over the next two years.

###