RDU to receive $50 million in federal support amid pandemic
By David Purcell – Digital Producer, Triangle Business Journal April 14, 2020

Raleigh-Durham International Airport will receive nearly $50 million from the U.S Department of Transportation to support its operations during the pandemic as air travel has all but come to a halt across the country.

The $49.5 million that RDU will see is part of $238 million that will go to airports in North Carolina. The funding comes from the CARES Act passed by Congress in an effort to stem the economic fallout from the pandemic.

The funding will support continuing operations and replace lost revenue resulting from the sharp decline in passenger traffic and other airport business. The federal funds are available for airport capital expenditures, airport operating expenses, including payroll and utilities, and debt payments.

As recently as February, air travel at RDU was trending at record levels with enplanements up 8.8 percent compared to the second month of 2019; but for the week ending April 3, the number of RDU passengers screened by TSA was down 94 percent compared with the same period in 2019.

Meanwhile, Charlotte-Douglas International Airport will receive $135 million, by the far the most in the state. Wilmington's airport will get nearly $20 million and Piedmont Triad International Airport will see $16.4 million.