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**News Release**

*For Immediate Release*

**New Airport Director Starts Work This Week**

Brain Weiler, the airport's new director of aviation, started work this week, his first day on the job was Monday. Weiler is the fifth director in the airport's 66-year history. He replaces Gary Cyr, who retired in April.

Until recently Weiler worked for the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) for 15 years. Among other things, he was responsible for the state's involvement in aviation, railroads, river ports, and public transportation. Before MoDOT, Weiler managed airports in Johnson County, Kans., St. Joseph, Mo., and Martin County, Fla.

"With recent airport projects, including the new terminal, and this year's runway repaving, we won't have to make major infrastructure improvements for many years," says Weiler. "As we move forward I plan to put additional focus on customer service and community outreach to highlight airport services."

The subject of air service is always top of mind. "The airport has a good mix of destinations and airlines. It's now possible to fly from Springfield to almost anywhere in the country with just one stop, says Weiler. "Asia, South America and Europe are just one stop a way as well. Moving forward we'll work to make that even better."

Weiler had barely started work at the airport when he tied up a loose end of sorts. On Monday the Missouri Public Transportation Association gave Weiler its Friend of Transit Award for his commitment to public transportation during his tenure at MoDOT. He plans to spend the rest of the week on the new job, meeting employees and learning his way around the airport. "I'm excited to start my new job and look forward to knowing the community," says Weiler.

For more information, contact: Kent Boyd, Public Information and Marketing, Springfield-Branson National Airport, 417.868.0500, 2300 North Airport Blvd., Suite 100, Springfield, Missouri 65802