



DESIGNWORKS

The new Blue Grass Airport entrance, shown in this artist's rendering, is intended to bring to mind a Thoroughbred horse farm.

Airport face lift gets funding

FEDERAL GRANT TO HELP MAKEOVER BLUE GRASS FRONT ENTRANCE

By Jennifer Hewlett

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A face lift for Blue Grass Airport's front entrance is a step closer to becoming a reality, thanks to a large federal grant.

Gov. Steve Beshear and other state officials were on hand at the airport Wednesday for the presentation of a \$586,233 ceremonial check representing the federal money.

"Folks, you only get one chance to make a first impression, and we intend to make a great impression and a lasting impression," said the governor, referring to the thousands of people who will



Gov. Steve Beshear attended the check ceremony

be going through the airport on their way to and from the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in 2010.

The front entrance makeover, initially expected to cost between \$750,000 and \$1 million, is now estimated to cost a little under \$1.2 million, according to airport officials.

The airport applied for the federal grant, which requires a 20 percent local match. Pro-

ceeds from airport bonds will be used to pay the remainder of the cost, which will be well above the required match.

The new entrance is anticipated to be completed by fall 2009, according to airport officials.

The new entryway design, meant to bring to mind a Kentucky Thoroughbred horse farm, calls for brick wing walls on either side of the entrance; a median with brick columns and wrought iron fence panels; and low, dry-stacked limestone walls serving as perimeters for plantings.

The plan also includes lighting and special pavement

to slow traffic speeds.

Lexington Mayor Jim Newberry said that the airport is one of Lexington's most important economic tools, and the new entrance will help the city put its best foot forward.

Airport executive director Michael Gobb said the new entryway, with its plants native to Kentucky and stacked limestone walls, will be "pulling in the best of the Bluegrass."

The entrance will set the stage for what visitors to the area will experience while here, he said.

The airport's goal is to make sure visitors know they're in the Bluegrass and feel like they're in the Bluegrass when they arrive at the airport, he said.