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Republic Airport plans to install barriers at the end of each runway as a safety measure.

EAST FARMINGDALE

Grant for airport safety

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Republic Airport has received \$1.09 million from the federal government to help bring one of its two runways into compliance with federal safety regulations.

The money will pay for the design of barriers to be constructed at both ends of runway 14-32 to stop or slow an aircraft that overruns, undershoots or veers off the runway, said Shelley LaRose-Arken, the manager of the East Farmingdale airport.

Federal safety standards require 1,000 feet of clearance beyond each end of the runway and 500 feet across, leaving room for a runaway aircraft.

Republic Airport, occupying 526 acres, is located near Route 110, a heavily traveled road. Aircraft as small as a two-seat Cessna and as large as an

MD-80 passenger jet fly into and out of the general aviation airport, LaRose-Arken said.

There is now a little more than 500 feet of clearance between the end of runway 14-32 and Route 110, she said, and a little more than 600 feet between the opposite end of the runway and New Highway.

In February 2005, a Canadair Challenger CL-600 ran off the end of a runway at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey and skidded across Route 46 before crashing into a warehouse. The accident, which injured several people on board and on the ground, prompted the airport operator to install the same buffer being planned for Republic: an engineered materials arrestor system, or EMAS, a bed of lightweight and crushable concrete.

In October 2006, a private jet carrying New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez was stopped by such a barrier when

it overran a runway at Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, Calif.

At Republic, the buffers would be installed at both ends of runway 14-32 to help prevent aircraft from crashing through fencing and crossing Route 110 or New Highway if pilots are forced to abort during takeoff or overshoot the runway.

"They would come to rest in that EMAS, as opposed to possibly going onto the roads," LaRose-Arken said.

The design for the buffers is expected to take 9 to 12 months to complete, LaRose-Arken said, and would cost an estimated \$13.77 million to build.

Republic Airport's second runway, 1-19, has more than 700 feet of clearance at one end and a little more than 1,500 feet at the other end, LaRose-Arken said. Because there is enough land, Republic plans to move the runway to bring it into compliance with federal regulations.