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AIRMAIL '19



November 26, 2019

Issue 19-18

Florida's budget includes nearly \$10M for transportation infrastructure development

"My Bolder, Brighter, Better Future Budget will further allow the Florida Department of Transportation to create a modern transportation system for our residents and visitors," DeSantis said. "Safely reducing congestion on our roadways is a critical component of my vision for transportation in Florida. This budget will ensure FDOT can invest in improvements to facilitate increased mobility and keep people and goods moving throughout our state."

"My Bolder, Brighter, Better Future Budget will further allow the Florida Department of Transportation to create a modern transportation system for our residents and visitors," DeSantis said.

The investment includes \$865.7 million to resurface roads, \$686 million for rail/transit program advancements, \$436.2 million for scheduled repairs of 57 bridges and replacement of 18 bridges, \$323.9 million for aviation improvements, \$212.9 million for safety initiatives, \$119.7 million in seaport infrastructure enhancements, and \$2.8 billion for highway construction.

The funding will allow FDOT to reduce congestion and establish Florida as a national leader in multimodal transportation, FDOT Secretary Kevin J. Thibault said. The proposed budget also includes \$8.8 billion for FDOT's Work Program. The five-year plan was defined by Florida statutes and identifies need-based projects.



*The FAC Office will be closed for Thanksgiving
November 28-29, 2019*

AROUND THE STATE

[Amazon expands with new fulfillment center in Auburndale, Florida](#)

On Nov. 20, 2019, Amazon announced plans to open a fulfillment center in Auburndale, Florida. When the site opens, Amazon will create more than 500 new, full-time jobs starting at \$15 an hour with comprehensive benefits starting on day one. Employees at the more than one million-square-foot fulfillment center will pick, pack and ship large customer items, such as sports equipment, patio furniture, fishing rods, pet food, kayaks, bicycles, and larger household goods. Amazon currently employs more than 13,500 full-time associates throughout the state of Florida.

"We are excited to join the Auburndale community and create more than 500 new, full-time jobs with industry-leading pay and benefits at our newest fulfillment center in the state," said Alicia Boler Davis, Amazon's vice president of global customer fulfillment. "Florida has been a source of exceptional talent for Amazon and the Sunshine state is an ideal location to provide great selection, competitive prices and superfast shipping speeds to Floridians."

"Amazon's new distribution center in Auburndale is a big win for Polk County and our entire state," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "We are grateful that Amazon recognizes Florida's investment value and look forward to the economic benefits and job opportunities this new center will provide for our residents."

On top of Amazon's \$15 minimum wage, the company offers full-time employees comprehensive benefits including full medical, vision, and dental insurance as well as a 401(k) with 50 percent match starting on day one. The company also offers up to 20 weeks of maternal and parental paid leave and innovative benefits such as Leave Share and Ramp Back, which give new parents flexibility with their growing families.

In addition, Amazon has pledged to invest over \$700 million to provide upskilling training for 100,000 U.S. employees for in demand jobs. All associates will go through hours of safety training and have access to continuing education opportunities through Amazon's upskilling programs such as Career Choice. In this program, the company will pre-pay up to 95 percent of tuition for courses related to in-demand fields, regardless of whether the skills

are relevant to a career at Amazon. Since the program's launch, more than 25,000 employees have pursued degrees in game design and visual communications, nursing, IT programming and radiology, to name a few.

"Auburndale is pleased to have Amazon join the family of businesses that call our City home," said Tim Pospichal, Mayor of Auburndale. "We look forward to the opportunities this fulfillment center will provide the residents of our City."

AIRPORT MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

[PGD wins statewide recognition for marketing](#)

The Charlotte County Airport Authority is proud to announce statewide recognition for Punta Gorda Airport's public relations and marketing efforts in collaboration with its agency partner, Gravina, Smith, Matte & Arnold Marketing and Public Relations (GSMA). On November 19th, during the 19th Annual Flagler Awards at the Florida Tourism Forum, Punta Gorda Airport (PGD) won a Bronze Award for Creativity in Public Relations for its *Destination Spotlights* campaign.



PGD serves as a vital tourism channel for Southwest Florida residents to use and enjoy for convenient, low-cost, nonstop transportation to 45+ destinations throughout the U.S. Each Destination Spotlight offers an insider's look at things to do, see and experience at that destination, all available through a convenient, low-cost, nonstop Allegiant flight out of PGD. Through social media and website posts to share the Destination Spotlights, the campaign successfully improved PGD brand awareness, expanded its online audience and increased traffic to the [PGD BUZZ](#) blog.

GSMA's Associate Partner Jennifer Hamilton worked closely with PGD on creating a campaign that would brand the airport and integrate with its larger marketing strategy. "A crucial part of our efforts was creating and sharing original content that would be informative and useful for Southwest Florida residents," said Hamilton. "In turn, this reinforced the airport's presence within the region as a low-cost gateway to destinations all around the country." "As part of this campaign effort, we also strived to cultivate strong relationships with other destination marketing groups, with the ultimate goal of promoting tourism for Florida and travel between airports," said PGD's Marketing & Communications Manager Kaley Miller.

For examples of Destination Spotlights, visit www.FlyPGD.com and click on the BUZZ icon, or visit PGD's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages. As Allegiant adds new flights and nonstop destinations, GSMA and PGD will continue working with partner airports and tourism partners to grow the successful campaign.

Lakeland airport receives \$8.5M grant

Lakeland Linder International Airport has received the final funding needed for perhaps its most significant upgrade since its creation during World War II.

The FAA has announced a grant of \$8.5 million, completing the pool of \$27 million in combined funds needed to pay for fortifying the airport's main runway. "This will give us a state-of-the-art runway for our airport for the next 20 years," Airport Director Gene Conrad said. "It is probably the most critical piece of our infrastructure here at this facility, so it is a major upgrade and we're looking forward to getting it complete."



The money comes as an AIP discretionary grant. Rep. Ross Spano, R-Dover, announced the award in a news release, saying he had worked with the airport and the federal Department of Transportation to secure the funding. Spano, whose district includes Lakeland, serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Subcommittee on Aviation.

"This funding is essential to the growth and expansion of Lakeland Linder, and the timing is critical for their construction timelines. DOT grants will go towards updating the runway infrastructure, which is needed to attract new businesses and jobs," Spano said in a news release. "The airport is also working to attract and accommodate large companies, and now is the time to start building for the future."

The grant follows an award of nearly \$10.2 million the airport received in September from the FAA through its regular AIP funding. The FDOT will contribute \$5.8 million, and the airport will cover the remaining \$2.3 million for the project, Conrad said.

The main runway extends 8,500 feet, or 1.61 miles. The asphalt of the runway now has an average depth of

3½ inches, Conrad said, and the project will increase that to a uniform thickness of 9 inches. As part of the project, crews will also reconstruct the runway's lighting.

Work will begin Dec. 2 and is scheduled to finish before June, when Amazon will begin flights from a seven-jet cargo facility being constructed at the airport.

Amazon planes are expected to make eight to ten flights a day

DATES TO REMEMBER

(New ←)

	Location	Date
CFASPP Steering Committee Meetings	Various Click here for additional information	February 18 - March 5, 2020
FAA 2020 Southern Regional Airports Conference	Atlanta, GA Click here for additional information	April 13-16, 2020
2020 Education & Training Summit	Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista <i>More information coming soon</i>	April 22-24, 2020
51st Annual Conference & Exposition	Orlando, FL Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress	July 19-22, 2020

Please email lisa@floridaairports.org with calendar updates.

out of Lakeland Linder. Amazon announced its own \$100 million investment in the airport in May.

Conrad said the contractor, Hubbard Construction of Winter Park, expects to have the runway mostly completed by the start of the Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo, which runs from March 31 to April 5. The contractor will cease work for the air show and then resume it to complete the final elements, including the painting of stripes.

Conrad said the runway improvements don't necessarily make Lakeland Linder more likely to attract commercial flights. The

airport hasn't hosted a commercial carrier since Direct Air shut down in 2012.

Lakeland Linder hosts more than 125,000 aircraft operations annually, ranking it as the 112th busiest airport in the country. The airport is home to the NOAA Hurricane Hunters fleet and Draken International, a defense contractor that runs training exercises on retired military aircraft, along with Central Florida Aerospace Academy and aerospace programs from Polk State College and Southeastern University.

NORTH PERRY AIRPORT

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

Young Eagles Rally & Expo at North Perry Airport



The North Perry Airport Community Association (www.NPACA.net) had a mission – to break down the fence between the airfield and its neighbors right next door in Pembroke Pines, Miramar, and Hollywood, Florida. Over 60 kids had the opportunity to cross that fence and hop into a private airplane for their first (and free) “Discovery Flight” at

North Perry Airport as part of a Young Eagles Rally and Expo on Saturday November 2nd, 2019.

Simultaneously, a mini-expo was held for parents, Young Eagles, and their siblings that featured local flight schools and aviation businesses, the Navy, Civil Air Patrol, Air Traffic Controllers, and aviation groups such as the Organization for Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP), Latino Pilots Association (LPA), and the female pilots group, The 99s. Kids had an opportunity to interact with pilots, mechanics, and air traffic controllers. They could even take a free class called “Components of an Airplane.”

There were countless smiles and life long memories planted that morning.



Launched in 1992, the Young Eagles program has dedicated more than 25 years to giving youth ages 8–17 their first free ride in an airplane.

It's the only program of its kind, with the sole mission to introduce and inspire kids in the world of aviation.

Today, more than 2 million young people have enjoyed a free introductory flight through the Young Eagles program. These flights are made possible through the generosity of EAA member volunteers.

AROUND THE NATION

[Elaine Chao: U.S. Department of Transportation invests in Orlando Melbourne Airport | Opinion](#)

As demand for air travel grows, this administration through the U.S. Department of Transportation, is partnering with state and local governments to invest in our airport infrastructure. Thanks to a robust economy and lower ticket prices, more people can afford to fly to their destinations. Newly released airline traffic estimates show 78.1 million passengers flew on U.S. airlines in October 2019. That's a 4.4% increase from the previous year.

To keep pace with the wear and tear on our nation's airports, this administration has awarded more than \$10.8 billion in Airport Improvement Program grants since January 2017 to more than 2,000 U.S. airports to improve safety and infrastructure.

Over the last two and a half years, the Department of Transportation has delivered \$656.1 million to airports across the state of Florida. Some of the most recent investments include:

- MLB received two grants totaling over \$6.2 million to fund airport terminal building improvements. That includes \$3 million being awarded on Friday.
- MCO received over \$16.49 million to rehabilitate its runway.
- MIA received over \$23 million to reconstruct a taxiway to improve the safety and efficiency of airport operations.
- FLL received over \$44.71 million to rehabilitate a runway and expand the airport's terminal building.

More than half of all Airport Improvement Program funds go toward constructing or rehabilitating runways, taxiways, and aprons. Federal Aviation Administration pavement standards help protect this investment by ensuring pavements last as long as possible.

Airfield pavement needs regular maintenance to seal cracks and repair damage, which increases the time between major rehabilitation cycles. Runway pavement in a state of good maintenance minimizes any damage to aircraft and avoids unnecessary additional costs for major rehabilitation. Efficient airport surfaces mean more on-time flights. **Keep Reading...**

[San Francisco in Uber pilot](#)

(Source: PassengerTerminalToday.com)

San Francisco International Airport has launched a pilot program with Uber to offer a premium curbside pick-up option for travelers. Effective November 20, 2019, for a period of two months, customers who choose a premium Uber product will be picked up curbside at designated locations in each Domestic Terminal. "Our goal is to make San Francisco easier for travelers to access, and this new pilot program offers a premium curbside pick-up experience during the holiday travel season," said airport director Ivar C Satero. "We hope this option makes traveling through the airport more enjoyable."

Curbside pick-up will be available with three Uber products: Uber Comfort; Uber Select; and Uber XL. Uber Black and Uber Black SUV products have always picked up curbside, and will continue to do so. Pick-ups at the International Terminal will continue in the current location, at the center island of the Departure level roadway.

REAL ID



October
1 | **DEADLINE**
October 1, 2020

Commercial Service Airports:

How are you notifying your customers about REAL ID?

REAL ID is less than 12 months away! **REAL ID** regulations become effective on **October 1, 2020**.

Please use this link and take a moment to complete a survey for sharing among Florida airports that are preparing for this milestone.

Welcome NEW Member!!

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INDUSTRY NEWS

Why are there so few women in aviation? (Source: CNNtravel.com)

When Southwest Captain Tammie Jo Shults landed a crippled 737 last year after an engine blew apart mid-air, many people were surprised to find out that there was a woman at the helm.



Captain Tammie Jo Shults

Today, a critical pilot shortage across the world has given women and people of color unprecedented opportunity.

It has turned airline recruiting on its head and, simply owing to supply and demand, globally salaries are rising dramatically for pilots and aviation maintenance technicians (AMTs).

Today there are more opportunities in the aviation field than at any time in history, including commercial space flight and unmanned systems.

Flight schools report an uptick in female students, according to Flight Schools Association of North America President Bob Rockmaker, whose experience echoed that of aviation universities who report a 10% to 15% increase in women pilots.

Much of this progress is thanks to efforts designed to change the industry's makeup, which has stubbornly resisted change since the first black man and first white woman were hired by airlines in the 1960s and 1970s. Women pilots have slowly risen from 5% to nearly 7% of airline pilots, but they've achieved barely a quiver in the needle over the past decade.

The current state of women in aviation

"Women are underrepresented in many areas of aviation, with the largest gaps in technical operations and leadership

positions," Dr. Rebecca Lutte, University of Nebraska at Omaha Aviation Institute, reported in her study for the nonprofit group Women in Aviation International.

Women in Aviation: A Workforce Report shows women make up less than 10% of pilots, maintenance technicians and airline executives.

"More emphasis is needed to build upon the 3% of women airline executives and 1% of women captains," Lutte wrote, adding numbers in aerospace engineering, dispatch, cybersecurity, airports and air traffic control need to be tracked. "It is equally important to increase the number of women on the flight deck and the number of board seats."

Inequality in the air

Women pilots say that part of the problem is work rules which haven't changed in 50 years.

Indeed, a recent University of Wisconsin study showed women leave within five years because of lack of advancement or desire to achieve work-life balance, indicating this is a problem not just for the flight deck but for the entire aviation and aerospace industries.

While other industries have adapted work rules to accommodate the modern family, aviation and aerospace remain stubbornly unchanged. In fact, according to the study, women who leave aviation usually continue to work outside the home, indicating a lot can be done to retain women in aviation careers.

One possible reason for the gender inequality in aviation is money, as training costs can be as much as \$150,000 in the US. But there may be other reasons - and Shannon Morrison, Ohio State University's Center for Aviation Studies curriculum and assessment manager and diversity and inclusion coordinator, wants to find out what they are. Morrison is studying the experiences of women of color and the challenges they face which may end their careers before they start. She is trying to discover why the numbers of women, and in particular black women, remain low, despite the efforts around diversity and inclusion in the industry. Having interviewed several black women in a variety of roles (pilots, human resources, and VP's) Morrison has discovered a disconnect between the experiences of her interviewees and the inclusion practices of the industry.

[Click here to keep reading.](#)

Electric race plane unveiled

NOVEMBER 18, 2019

The world's first electric race plane was unveiled on day one at the Dubai Airshow, showcasing custom modified technology built by one of the teams set to take part in the inaugural Air Race E event in 2020.

"This is a pivotal moment not only for Air Race E, but for the aviation industry as a whole," said Jeff Zaltman, Air Race E CEO.

"Our aim by establishing an electric racing series is to develop a unifying platform for the development of cleaner, faster, and more technologically

advanced electric aircraft. The racing series will provide a testbed for innovation and accelerate the journey towards electric commercial travel. We've now shown it is possible and are on track to again create history when planes like the one on display at the Dubai Airshow take to the skies for the race next year."

According to race organizers, the E-Racer Model is the first example of an electric race plane, built by Team Condor in their Yorkshire-based workshop in the North of England using a highly-modified Cassutt aircraft with a rich history in formula air racing dating back to 1979.

The custom Cassutt racer, named White Lightning, was once a regular on the formula one racing circuit in Europe throughout the 1980s and 1990s, with owner and pilot Andrew Chadwick earning a number of podium finishes to add to White Lightning's racing pedigree. Chadwick donated the aircraft to Team Condor to compete in the upcoming Air Race E series.

Team Condor leader Martyn Wiseman and his crew have spent the past months converting White Lightning into a fully-electric racing machine, using a Contra Electric twin motor and contra-rotating propeller powertrain.

The customized electric motor will enable the plane to race at speeds of around 300 mph, according to race officials.

During the races, the combined max continuous power will be

set at 150kW, according to the electric formula. Over 100kg worth of lithium batteries installed under the fuselage of the plane will provide power for five minutes of high intensity racing and around 10 minutes of reserve flying at reduced power.

The E-Racer model that was on display at the Dubai Airshow is one of two electric race planes nearest to completion. The other is being built at the University of Nottingham's Aerospace Technology Centre in the UK as part of its Propulsion Futures Beacons of Excellence research program. Project lead Richard Glasscock, a University of Nottingham engineering fellow, has also been instrumental in the development of White Lightning and expects to have his model in the air by early next year.

Air Race E will be a series of head-to-head international air races, showcasing the skills, expertise, and ingenuity of the best pilots and engineers from around the world. Unlike similar racing events which operate on a time trial basis, Air Race E events will see eight planes fly simultaneously around a tight 5km circuit at just 10m above the ground and at speeds of up to 450kph — faster than any land-based motorsport.

Air Race E announced the first eight teams that will compete in the inaugural race in November. The field includes strong representation across Europe and North America, with team

leaders coming from diverse backgrounds in aerobatics, manufacturing, air racing, the military, and robotics, organizers note.

The locations of the races are still being finalized, organizers add.



Aviation industry mechanics retiring faster than they are being replaced, report says (Source: transportationtodaynews.com)

A new report finds that while 30 percent of the aviation mechanics workforce is at or near retirement age, new entrants into the field only make up 2 percent of the workforce population each year.

The report from the Aviation Technician Education Council (ATEC) found that while there are more than 286,000 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certified Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) mechanics, 27 percent of the workforce is aged 64 and above.

The large gap between the demand for trained workers and the number of new employees entering the aviation mechanics industry is problematic. Boeing projects in its 2016 Pilot and Technician Outlook that 679,000 new maintenance technicians will be needed to maintain the world's airlines over the next 20 years. Airlines in North America specifically will require 127,000 maintenance personnel, the report said.



Steve Sabold, director of admissions at the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics (PIA), said certified mechanics are an industry necessity. According to the ATEC report, enrollment in all Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) schools totals nearly 17,800, but the program's capacity is more than 34,000. And while A&P program capacity has increased by 2 percent in trades today," Sabold said. "As technology has advanced, I

don't think young adults see the people doing the hands-on work that is necessary, and because of that may not think of aviation mechanics as a career option."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, aviation mechanics make a median salary of \$60,270

per year, as of 2016. "Aviation companies are being proactive about getting into the schools, even as early as middle school and changing the mentality of students," he said. "They are starting to step up and help others see the benefit of a certified aviation mechanic career."

Airport Internship Grant period is OPEN

Each year, FAC awards internship grants to member airports to help provide work experience for students interested in pursuing careers in airport management and to provide a talented workforce for Florida's airports. This program issues grants at an 80/20 match, up to **\$4,000**, for General Aviation Airports and at a 50/50 match, up to **\$4,000**, for Commercial Service Airports, to use toward compensation for an intern.

This year, there are 12 internship grant opportunities available.

To apply, you can access the Internship Grant Application [here](#) and send it by email to lisa@floridaairports.org, with a copy to gina@floridaairports.org.

Applications are also accepted by mail at:

Lisa Waters, President/CEO
Florida Airports Council
5802 Hoffner Avenue, Suite 708
Orlando, Florida 32822



Business & Employment Opportunities

LEGAL NOTICE

The Lee County Port Authority invites the submission of Request for Bids from all interested and qualified parties for (RFB) 19-31TB Taxable 5-Year \$50,000,000 Revolving Credit Facility to Lee County, Florida.

A copy of the Request for Bids and instructions for submittal may be obtained online at www.publicpurchase.com or by contacting the Lee County Port Authority Purchasing Office at (239) 590-4556.

The receiving for this Request for Bids is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., local time, Tuesday, December 17, 2019, in the Purchasing Office, 3rd Floor, Southwest Florida International Airport Terminal, located at 11000 Terminal Access Road, Fort Myers, FL 33913.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE: Any person needing special accommodations for any prebid meeting, oral presentation, and/or the public opening should contact the Authority's contact person listed below at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Any questions concerning this request shall be addressed to Terri L. Bortz, Purchasing Agent, Telephone (239) 590-4554, Fax (239) 590-4539 or email: tlbortz@flylcpa.com.

Lee County Port Authority
Southwest Florida International Airport
Attention: Purchasing Department
11000 Terminal Access Road, Suite 8671
Fort Myers, FL 33913-8899
www.flylcpa.com



Position: Director of Finance

Salary: \$101,000 - \$142,641 annually

Apply on or before: December 15, 2019

The Director will direct and manage the financial, accounting and budgetary functions for the LCPA. This position is responsible for managing and maintaining all financial, accounting and budgetary systems involving a large volume of transactions and is also responsible for processing and analyzing all financial records, requiring the applications of established financial and general accounting principles, theories and practices and the application of the specific requirement placed on accounting within a governmental unit.

Experience, Knowledge, Abilities & Skills

A Bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, business or closely related field is mandatory, and an MBA and/or CPA is preferred. Five to ten years of progressively responsible financial experience necessary. Experience at a commercial airport is required for airport financing and PFC applications. Accredited Airport Executive (AAE) certification from AAAE is a plus. Possession of a valid Florida driver license is required. Skills in a combination of the following areas:

- ➔ Superior organizational, oral, and written communication, proofreading, and critical thinking
- ➔ Logical strategic thinker with unquestionable integrity in the commitment to manage the fiscal affairs of a demanding organization
- ➔ Consistently demonstrating excellent problem-solving skills
- ➔ Experience with governmental budgetary practices, long term capital financing practices and modern accounting theory
- ➔ Strong analytical skills, well-developed financial analysis capabilities, financial policy analyses, financial planning and development and projections
- ➔ Must have knowledge of financial analysis techniques, activity-based costing/management, statistics, and related analysis tools

Due to the nature of the transportation industry, this position may be required to be on site at any time during an emergency. Must be available 24/7 if needed.

For instructions on how to apply, please **click here** to see the recruitment brochure, or visit the searches tab at www.adkexecutivesearch.com.

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