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AIRMAIL'20



March 6, 2020

Issue 20-05

State Affairs Update *2020 Legislative Session ends March 13th*

With only days remaining in the 2020 regular session, several bills impacting FL airports continue to move through the process.

State funding for the Airport Development Grant Program

- The House and Senate budget proposals both allocate \$395M for the program.

Aviation Fuel Taxes

- HB 7097 is the proposed House Tax Package, which has passed all committees of references and awaits a full floor vote. This bill reduces the fuel tax paid by commercial carriers from 2.85 cents per gallon to 1.89 cents

per gallon, while other smaller operators will continue to pay 4.27 cents per gallon. The Revenue Estimating Conference estimates that the reduction in the tax paid by commercial operators will have an estimated \$7.9 - \$8.8 million negative impact on the state budget.

Commercial Service Airports

- FAC and commercial service airport sponsors have been working closely with the bill sponsors to formulate acceptable language. So far, FAC cannot support the bill. This bill is also related to the fallout of the FIU bridge collapse. This legislation focuses on transparency in governance and procurement of contracts at commercial service airports. The bill proposed specific contractual limits for contracts required to go before the airports governing body; requires the posting of certain planning documents on the web, and posting of employees' positions, salaries and more. HB 915, filed by Rep. Avila, and Senate Bill 1258, filed by Senator Manny Diaz, have both passed all three of their committees of reference. Luis Olivero, Chad Rosenstein, Lisa Waters, and the lobbyists for FAC and for several of the individual airports have met with Representative Avila and Senator Diaz to express FAC's concerns about the bill. Both bills have been placed on Special Order Calendar for Thursday, March 5, 2020, in their respective Chambers.

Diesel Exhaust Fluid

- HB 569, filed by Representative Toby Overdorf (Stuart), and the identical Senate companion, SB 1036 by Senator Ben Albritton, appears to be on life support. It has been referred to its next committee of reference in the Senate (Environment and Natural Resources), which is not scheduled to meet again this Legislative Session. The House bill unanimously passed all three committees of reference and is on Special Order Calendar for Thursday, March 5, 2020 in the House. **If it dies, it will be back next year.**

PFAS - It appears there will not be legislation introduced this year to address PFAS, but we need to be ready for the 2021 session.

Turo/Peer-to-peer vehicle transactions

- Several bills have been moving in the House and Senate. House Bill 723, the final bill moving, has passed all of its committees of reference, but does not have a Senate companion. We are monitoring all amendments just in case the House Sponsor, Representative Jason Fischer, tries to amend it to another bill.

Engineering - Certified Engineering Inspection (CEI)

- Senate Bill 7054 is the Senate Transportation Package and was heard before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Tuesday, February 25, 2020. This bill includes language exempting airports from the 2019 CEI provision. Similar language, without the conflict of interest clause, is included in House Bill 395 by Representative Alex Andrade. The bill is on Special Order Calendar for Friday, March 6, 2020.

Register Now

For more information on registration, the agenda, hotel reservations and sponsorship and exhibiting opportunities, please visit www.floridaairports.org

OR

[CLICK HERE](#) to be directed to the conference registration website.



This year's Summit will feature sessions hosted by the FAC Corporate, General Aviation, Environmental, Noise Abatement & Community Affairs, and Training Committees.

This 2 1/2 day event offers a great training and professional development opportunity and we hope you will send your professionals to take part. In addition to the outstanding program, the conference provides an excellent opportunity to network face-to-face with your peers, industry leaders, vendors and consultants. The program allows time during breaks for exhibitors and sponsors to meet and talk with airport and industry representatives.

Sponsors

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Exhibitors



Welcome new FAC Board Member, Rufus James

Members, please join the Board of Directors and FAC staff in welcoming Rufus A. James, Airport Manager, Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, to the FAC Board. Rufus will fill the seat vacated by Lloyd Tillman last year. Rufus has 20 years of management experience in overseeing the day-to-day operation of the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, with diverse experience in operations, logistics oversight and project management. Rufus has an MBA, International Business from FAU, a Bachelors of Science degree, Air Transportation Management, University of New Haven, and is a licensed private pilot. **Welcome, Rufus!**

From the FAC Lobby Team, Johnson & Blanton

Governor Ron DeSantis, Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nunez, Surgeon General Dr. Scott Rivkees, and the Deputy Secretary of Health, Dr. Shamarial Roberson held a press conference regarding COVID-19 last week.

The State's top Health Officials went before cameras and reporters to assure Floridians the administration is taking action to protect the public from the threat of the coronavirus. There was little hard data in the update but Rivkees and DeSantis reassured the fact that the key statistic, the number of confirmed cases in the state, remains at zero. *(As of February 27, 2020.)*

The lack of testing information stems from Rivkees' interpretation of current law. Rivkees said the state can only share information on "highly infectious" viruses. Currently, coronavirus is considered "moderately infectious" but the four officials repeatedly stated that they have everything under control and there is currently no need for citizens to worry. DeSantis has even recently hinted at possible travel restrictions.

Senator Jose Javier Rodriguez also held a press conference later that same morning to respond to the governor's event on the state's preparations regarding the coronavirus. The Senator was joined by members of the Senate Democratic Caucus. They were not pleased with the governor's remarks and lack of information at his press conference and vowed to introduce an amendment to the Department of Health's legislative package to clarify the statute if the administration doesn't release coronavirus data soon. That amendment was officially filed today.

For the most up to date information from the Florida Governor and Department of Health, [click here](#)

Coronavirus + Travel Industry (ACI.org): The novel coronavirus outbreak has already upended an entire industry, resulting in canceled flights, resorts on lockdown, and a deadly cruise ship quarantine and is expected to cost the airline industry alone nearly \$30 billion. [Read the full article](#)

[Now accepting nominations: Honorary Al Gulamali Award for Excellence in Airport Operations](#)

The Florida Airports Council Operations Committee is now accepting nominations for the Honorary Al Gulamali Award for Excellence in Airport Operations. This award recognizes an airport employee that has provided a positive contribution to an airport, the traveling public, or to the aviation community.

Nominations will be accepted through March 31, 2020. To be eligible for the award, the individual must be actively working in the field of airport operations (airside, landside, or terminal), but not on a managerial level or a part of the airport's executive staff. To submit a nomination, [CLICK HERE](#). Questions may be directed to Shaun Blevins at shaun.blevins@flygainesville.com.

The Honorary Al Gulamali Award for Excellence in Airport Operations will be presented at the FAC Annual Conference in July!

DATES TO REMEMBER

(New ←)

	Location	Date
Florida Aviation Professionals Academy (FAPA) Course	FDOT District 2 Headquarters 1109 South Marion Avenue, Lake City, 32025-5874 Madison Room Click here for more information and an agenda	March 10-11, 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 South Click here for more information and to register	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.

Around the State

Airglades International Airport breaks ground on new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility

(Source: Airglades Intl. Airport)

Airglades International Airport LLC (AIA) broke ground on a new U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility that will replace the airport's current general aviation terminal. The \$2.1 million, 4,000-square-foot facility is made possible through partnership and coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Hendry County.

Strategically located in a logistics corridor less than 90 miles west of Miami, the development of this facility will designate AIA as an official port of entry to the U.S. and create a major international multimodal logistics complex with far-reaching economic impact. "The U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility is a milestone achievement for both Airglades and Hendry County," said Frederick C. Ford, president and founder of Airglades International Airport. "This facility serves a critical role in creating a one-stop cargo complex to send and receive perishable goods for all Latin American cargo hubs."

With the inspection facility and an overall airport expansion, AIA will be able to accept international cargo planes importing perishable goods, offering shorter flight times and reduced travel distances and road congestion throughout the transportation logistics chain. The streamlined chain will



consolidate customs locations for timely import inspection and reduce delays of domestic shipments of refrigerated cargo, leading to less spoilage and increased shelf life for perishables such as seafood, produce and flowers to be sold throughout the U.S.

"The Airglades International Airport is a great step toward improved efficiencies in the examination of international flights arriving from South America and beyond for South Florida," said Diane J. Sabatino, Director of Field Operations for the Miami and Tampa Field Offices for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, whose officers will facilitate these operations.

South Florida is an established global logistics hub through which more than 83% of all commodities imported by air to the U.S. from the Americas is

received and sends more than 79% of all exported commodities from the U.S. to the Americas. "As a user-fee airport, Airglades and its ability to process these flights will be a catalyst for promoting economic growth and creating job opportunities in Hendry County," said Sabatino.

The expansion of the airport is expected to create more than 10,000 jobs during the construction phase and the establishment of the Airglades International Airport will create 1,700 long-term jobs for Hendry County and surrounding communities. For more information, visit

www.airglades.com.

Two Florida destinations among the 10 most searched for 2020 Spring destinations for North America *(Source: Forbes.com)*

Google Travel tabulates the most popular destinations for the travel window of March 20, 2020, to April 6, 2020. All of the top 10 destination searches have a round-trip flight originating in the United States. Some of these exotic travel destinations can be closer to home than you think.

The 2 Florida destinations include Sarasota and Fort Myers. Other destinations include Palm Springs, California; San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico; Cancun, Mexico; Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands; Vail, Colorado; Austin, Texas and Phoenix, Arizona.

[Click here for the complete report.](#)

FAC Member News

City of Ocala in Partnership with Sheltair Aviation open the Ocala International Airport Terminal

OCALA, Fla. (Feb. 28, 2020) – The City of Ocala in partnership with Sheltair, the Ocala Airport Fixed Based Operator (FBO), opened the main terminal at Ocala International Airport on Friday, February 28, representing a \$7 million public-private investment in a facility designed to serve a dynamic Florida community while strengthening the role of general aviation.

The Ocala terminal project represents the combined efforts of the City of Ocala, the airport, the Florida Department of Transportation, and Sheltair. The new 15,722 square foot terminal is a state-of-the-art building with soaring architecture that will house the Sheltair FBO (including offices, crew lounge, a 'quiet room,' and flight planning areas), airport administration offices, rental car facilities, community event space and a local restaurant expected to open next year.

"Through City Council's leadership and key partnerships with the Florida Department of Transportation and Sheltair Aviation, this project has gone from concept to creation," said Ocala Interim City Manager, Sandra Wilson. "This airport terminal will serve as an iconic gateway to Ocala and Marion County for business and leisure travelers for generations to come. It signifies our recognition of the positive economic impact the general aviation industry has on this community."

In addition, Sheltair has just broken ground on a new 19,800 square foot hangar at OIA with spacious 28-foot doors that will accommodate the latest corporate jets that help keep our nation's economy in motion.

Todd Anderson, Sheltair's Senior Vice President of Real Estate and Development, stated, "We believe that this new hangar now under construction and the adjacent FBO building represent a world-class 'front door' to the City of Ocala that has come to market just in time. Our company is proud to be part of this unique partnership, contributing our proven aviation design expertise along with a \$2 million financial investment, allowing all of us to celebrate a much-anticipated ribbon cutting."

Anderson notes that it will not only be able to accommodate current general aviation traffic but the significant growth in passenger traffic that will occur when the 4,000-acre World Equestrian Center opens in 2021, becoming an acclaimed Ocala international destination.

The terminal and hangar are not the only areas receiving considerable attention at the airport. Late last year, the Ocala City Council approved a \$5.25-million contract for rehabilitation of the airport's main taxiway.

Mr. Anderson concluded, "The infrastructure that supports general aviation is crucial to its role in supporting a region's economy. The public officials of Ocala City and the executives of the airport recognize this essential fact and it is reflected in this new terminal and the role it is expected to play in the years to come."



Welcome New FAC Member!!

Tyco (Johnson Controls)
 Emily Barkley, Regional Sales Manager
 6 Technology Park Drive
 Westford, MA 01886
 (202) 304-6932
emma.barkley@jci.com

Around the Nation

Bill allowing AIP project incentive payments advances in House

(Source: aaaa.org)

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has approved legislation that would allow airports to provide incentive payments to contractors for early completion of AIP-funded projects. The Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act of 2020 would permit airports to use up to \$1 million in AIP funding to incentivize a contractor to complete the project early, a technique that is common for surface transportation projects.

AAAAE and ACI-NA initially urged lawmakers to consider this approach during consideration of the FAA reauthorization bill, which Congress passed in late 2018, as a way to help airports reduce the time it takes to complete their infrastructure projects.

Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), in a statement recently on the legislation, again called on lawmakers to increase the federal cap on PFCs. "While this bill makes strides in the right direction," DeFazio said, "I believe there is a good case for allowing the PFC, which has been frozen for nearly two decades, to be increased in order to more quickly expedite future projects with less expense and wasted money on interest to Wall Street.

Chao: DOT 'Absolutely' will support FAA Contract Tower Program

DOT "absolutely" will continue to support FAA's Contract Tower Program, DOT Secretary Elaine Chao told a House panel last week. In testimony before the House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee on the administration's fiscal year 2021 DOT budget proposal, Chao described the contract tower program as "very important" to rural America. She noted that the department is currently evaluating six new applications to join the program.

Although lawmakers included \$170 million in funding for the program in the fiscal year 2020 appropriations package that Congress approved late last year, the administration's budget request for the upcoming fiscal year did not include dedicated funding for the popular program. The U.S. Contract Tower Association and AAAE last month led a coalition of aviation groups in urging lawmakers to fully fund the program at \$172.8 million in fiscal year 2021.

Lawmakers to urge retention of LEO Reimbursement Program *(Source: aaaa.org)*

Senior members of the House Homeland Security Committee plan to urge rejection of the administration's proposal to eliminate funding for TSA's Law Enforcement Officer reimbursement grant program. The administration's proposal would transfer exit lane staffing responsibilities to airport operators.

Lawmakers are preparing a letter to the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee members that points to the importance of having a strong law enforcement presence in airports to deter, prevent and respond to attacks. The draft letter, which requests full funding for the grant program, further urges that these costs not be shifted to airports, saying this would impose an unbearable burden on them.

GA's contribution to US economy remains strong *(Source: GAMA.aero)*

On February 19, 2020, a group of seven GA associations welcomed an updated study detailing the contributions of general aviation to the U.S. economy. The study, conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, determined that general aviation supports a total 1,179,200 jobs and a total of \$246.8 billion in total economic output in the U.S.

The General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA), Aircraft Electronics Association (AEA), Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), Helicopter Association International (HAI), National Air Transportation Association (NATA) and National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) sponsored the study, with the support from JETNET LLC. and Conklin & de Decker. Leaders of the associations expressed confidence in the study's portrayal of the expanding breadth and depth of the general aviation industry.

"U.S. economic growth and opportunity coming from the general aviation industry is increasing, and this trend will only accelerate as supersonic and electrically propelled business aircraft drive deeper into their development phases," said Pete Bunce, GAMA President and CEO. "This study confirms that general aviation continues to have a very significant impact on the U.S. economy." [Click here to keep reading...](#)

Business & Employment Opportunities

Bartow Executive Airport

Interested firms are requested to indicate their interest in this project by submitting four (4) copies of a Letter of Interest to Mr. John Helms, Executive Director, Bartow Airport Authority, Post Office Box 650, Bartow, Florida 33831-0650, on or before 2:00 p.m. (local time), April 7, 2020

Questions may be directed to Mr. John Helms at (863) 533-1195

The Bartow Airport Authority is seeking a planning firm capable of providing airport planning for the purpose of developing a comprehensive master plan and Airport Layout Plan to include Airport data collection and facility inventories; Aeronautical activity forecasts and demand/capacity analyses; Demand/Capacity analysis and Facility requirements; Terminal Area Plan; Airport noise study; Compatible land use plan; GIS data collection. The project will be funded through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP).



LEGAL NOTICE

Request for Letters of Qualifications (LOQ 20-36TLB)
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING
AND INSPECTION (CEI) SERVICES
FOR RSW TERMINAL EXPANSION PROJECT
www.flylcpa.com

Lee County Port Authority (hereafter referred to as "Authority") invites the submission of Letters of Qualifications (LOQ) from interested corporations, partnerships and other legal entities authorized to do business in the state of Florida to provide the services as specified in this Request for Letters of Qualifications. A copy of the Request for Letters of Qualifications and instructions for submittal may be obtained online at www.publicpurchase.com.

A MANDATORY PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETING is scheduled for 1:00 p.m., local time, March 16, 2020, at Southwest Florida International Airport, Wright Brothers Conference Room, 3rd floor, 11000 Terminal Access Road, Fort Myers, Fla. 33913-8899. LOQs submitted by firms not attending this mandatory meeting will not be considered.

Receiving and opening of the Letters of Qualifications is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., local time, April 6, 2020, in the Amelia Earhart Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Southwest Florida International Airport Terminal, located at 11000 Terminal Access Road, Suite 8671, Fort Myers, Florida, 33913-8899.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE: The Lee County Port Authority will not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Any person needing special accommodations for attendance at the public opening should contact Terri L. Bortz, Purchasing Agent, Lee County Port Authority, Purchasing Office, tlbortz@flylcpa.com; telephone (239) 590-4554; fax (239) 590-4539 at least even (7) days before the scheduled meeting. Any questions concerning the Request for Proposals shall be addressed to Terri L. Bortz, Purchasing Agent, Telephone (239) 590-4554, Fax (239) 590-4539 or email: tlbortz@flylcpa.com.



TALLAHASSEE
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Position: Airport Engineer

Salary Range: \$31.36 to \$72.01 hourly (will generally not exceed \$55.39/hour)

Apply on or before 5pm ET, March 20, 2020

Essential Job Duties

This is responsible professional engineering and managerial work in directing and managing the Aviation Department's Capital Programs Division. The position is responsible for all functions related to the preparation or acquisition of services to prepare, and oversight related to: airport and facility planning, architecture/engineering, construction, environmental, and sustainability issues and the development and implementation of the airport capital improvement program. Duties are performed with considerable independence requiring the exercise of judgment and initiative in day-to-day operations. Important contacts are required with the public, officials of the county, state and federal agencies, contractors and consulting engineers. Manages the planning, design, construction, and coordination of a large number of various airport infrastructure projects. Performs related work as required.

Job Specifications

For the complete job specification, listing major job functions and duties for this job classification, go to <http://www.tal.gov.com/employment/hr-job-descriptions.aspx>

CONTACT US

Business Office

5802 Hoffner Ave.,
Suite 708
Orlando, FL 32822
Phone: (407) 745-4161

Governmental Affairs Office

325 John Knox Rd,
Suite L103
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Phone: (850) 205-5632
Fax: (850) 222-3019

www.floridaairports.org

info@floridaairports.org