Legislative Update - June 27, 2020

FAC’s legislative priorities were established by the Board of Directors at its October 17, 2019 meeting. State Affairs Committee Chair, Luis Olivero, GOAA, and Vice-Chair, David Pollard, TLH, along with the State Affairs Committee and members worked throughout the session, which ended March 19, 2020. The Coronavirus emerged at the end of the session and has upended the budget process and stalled the process for many bills that have still not been presented to the Governor for action. Several FAC priorities remain outstanding. The Governor has fifteen consecutive days after presentation to sign or veto the bill. The status to date of each FAC 2020 priority is listed below.

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the state has not lost its focus on critical transportation infrastructure and hurricane recovery needs. The budget provides $9.2 billion for the State Transportation Work Program, including $2.5 billion for highway construction, $400.5 million for aviation improvements, $885.5 million for rail/transit projects and $236.4 million for safety initiatives.

Additionally, the budget includes $1.3 billion in federal and state funding for communities to respond to, recover from, and mitigate against major disasters or emergencies. Further, the budget provides $10 million for state-level election oversight activities, with a focus on cybersecurity enhancements to Florida’s election system.

State Funding for Airport Development Grant Program - Program budget $400.5 million for aviation improvements, including $85 million for spaceports. Signed by the Governor June 29, 2020.

Transportation Network Companies - Removes for-hire vehicles from list of vehicles that are not considered transportation network carriers or are not exempt from certain airport registrations. Signed by the Governor on June 23rd, a win for Florida Airports.

PFAS - FAC is seeking an exemption from the costs associated with any investigation or clean-up, as these chemicals are required by FAA for ARFF. An attempt was made by FL House and Senate to include PFAS regulation in the Florida Safe Drinking Water Act HB 1427. FAC and several FL airports are part of a working group that will review potential 2021 legislation.

Real-ID - Feds postponed this measure until October 2021.

Aviation Fuel Taxes - FAC opposed any changes to the State Aviation Fuel Tax. FAC and airport members were successful at preventing its implementation by eliminating it from the Tax Package. Signed by the Governor, a win for Florida Airports.

Peer-to-Peer Car Sharing - FAC supported language in F.S. 331.17, “In order to facilitate the provision of service on the property of a publicly owned airport that is open for public use, a motor vehicle rental company as defined in 320.01(47), a car-sharing service as defined in 320.01(46), or a peer-to-peer car sharing program defined in 320.01(48) must enter an agreement with the airport to provide such services.” FAC worked with industry stakeholders to seek legislation that ensures parity for this line of business. Bills proposed died in committee. A win for Florida Airports and a high priority for 2021 session.

Legislation related to Transportation/Engineering/CEI services on Airport projects - FAC requested an exclusion for airports. Bills included airport exemption language, but died in committee. A loss for Florida Airports - a high priority for 2021 session.
Commercial Service Airports - Transparency in governing airports, FAC and individual airport members attempted to work with the sponsor of HB 915, however, FAC ultimately opposed the Bill. To date, this bill has not been presented to the Governor for action. FAC and several member airports have sent a letter to the Governor appealing for a VETO of this bill. Depending upon the outcome, a priority for 2021 will be to defeat a similar Bill or if it is signed, amend certain sections.

Diesel Exhaust Fluid - Requires airport managers to fully implement a “DEF Safety mitigation and exclusion plan” designating where DEF can be stored, separation from aircraft, fueling trucks and facilities, incorporating proper labeling and best practices for storage and dispensing. Bills failed, a win for Florida Airports but a high priority for the 2021 session.

Deregulation of Professions and Occupations - Removes local government authority to charge for licenses and permits for occupations like food trucks. FAC/airports were successful in incorporating language that preempts the regulation of mobile food dispensing vehicles (food trucks) to the state to prohibit local government (but not port authorities, aviation authorities, airports, or seaports) from requiring a license, registration, or permit, and prohibiting the operation of food trucks in the entirety of their jurisdiction. This Bill was presented to the Governor for action on June 17, 2020. If signed, this is a win for Florida Airports.

Elimination of Tax on Aircraft Sales and Leases - Bills proposed died in committee. A loss for Florida Airports.

Prohibited Areas for Weapons and Firearms - Authorize elected members of certain governmental bodies with concealed carry permits to carry during a public meeting of the governing body of which he/she is a member. Bills died in committee.

Legislation related to Special Districts – Reduces the information a special district is required to post; revises methods by which special districts may post its final audit report on its website and deletes requirements that public facilities report and meeting materials be posted on the special district’s website. This Bill has not been presented to the Governor for action.

Public Procurement Services - Revises the maximum dollar amount for continuing contracts for construction projects, redefining the term “continuing contract” to increase certain maximum dollar amounts for professional architectural, engineering, landscape architectural, and surveying and mapping services; requiring the Department of Management Services to annually adjust by rule the statutory caps for continuing contracts, etc. Raises the threshold amount for continuing contracts for individual projects from the current $2 million to $4 million, and on studies from $200,000 to $500,000. Bill was signed by the Governor for action on June 29, 2020, a win for Florida Airports.

Diesel Exhaust Capture Systems - Requires the Florida Building Commission to incorporate specified requirements related to fire stations into the Florida Building Code with specified dates: Any fire station that is newly constructed or undergoes substantial renovation on or after July 1, 2020, be equipped with a diesel exhaust capture system and/or any fire station that has closed bays and is in existence before July 1, 2020, install a diesel exhaust capture system by July 1, 2025. Bills died in committee.

Public Construction - Revises the amount of retainage that certain local governmental entities and contractors may withhold from progress payments for any construction services contract. Bills passed and are on the way to the Governor for signature.

Local Government Public Construction Works - Requires local governing board to consider estimated costs of certain projects when making specified determination and requires local government that performs projects using its own services, employees, & equipment to disclose costs of project after completion to Auditor General. Bill was presented to the Governor for action on June 17, 2020.

Drones - Allows FWC and the Florida Forest Service to use drones under certain circumstances. Signed by the Governor for action on June 29, 2020. No provisions impact Florida airports.

Legislative Review of Occupational Regulations - The bills are nicknamed the “Occupational Regulation Sunset Act” because they sunset all occupational and professional licenses under purview of DBPR beginning July 1, 2021. Bills failed.

A note from the Orlando ADO
Bart Vernace, P.E., Manager, FAA/Orlando Airports District Office

Attention Aviation Partners:

As you know, most staff of the Orlando Airports District Office continue to telework during the pandemic. Therefore, in order to serve you expeditiously, please continue to send all correspondence to our staff electronically. If you have a need to mail correspondence to us, also send it electronically.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Karen Feaster - from airport intern to airport director

Karen Feaster has come a long way since she started at the airport as an intern in 1992 – all the way to the top. On Tuesday, June 16th, the Volusia County Council confirmed Feaster as the new airport director in charge of the county-owned and operated Daytona Beach International Airport.

For Feaster, the promotion to the top spot caps off a 27-year career of increasing responsibility at the airport, with positions along the way that have included director of properties and finance, director of administration and grants, director of administration and projects and director of airport services. Prior to Tuesday’s promotion, Feaster had served as deputy airport director for the last five years under the direction of the county’s director of aviation and economic resources, Rick Karl. Karl has held the dual titles of aviation and economic resources director as well as airport director for more than 10 years. But as Karl’s duties increasingly required him to focus on economic development and recruitment of aviation and aerospace firms, Feaster took on more and more responsibility for overseeing the airport operations.

And with all of those years of experience, Feaster has been directly responsible for virtually every aspect of airport management, such as leases and land development, airport passenger facility charges, accounts receivables and payables, budget and accounting and project and grants. County Manager George Recktenwald, who selected Feaster for the top post, told council members during Tuesday’s confirmation hearing that Feaster has been doing an excellent job and is highly qualified to be director. “You couldn’t work your way up any farther than the way Karen has done it,” said Recktenwald.

For his part, Karl said much of the airport’s success over the past decade has been the result of Feaster’s efforts. “This is something that Karen has earned,” said Karl. “Everything that we’ve done over the past 10 years, all the successes, she has been largely responsible for.”

In the past 10 years alone, Feaster has managed more than $90 million in grant-funded airport projects and also has been instrumental in overseeing the design and construction of the $14 million terminal renovation project that’s currently under way. Feaster graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a bachelor’s degree in aeronautical studies with management. After two years working for the airlines and in commercial property management, she began working at the airport in April 1992 as a volunteer intern. In January 1993, she started her part-time career at the airport as an operations agent. Feaster has been certified through the American Association of Airport Executives as an accredited airport executive, an airport certified employee – operations and an international airport certified employee.

Even with all of the accolades and accomplishments, to Feaster, it’s all about the teamwork. She also took the time to thank several people who she said have mentored her throughout her career.

“I appreciate the confidence. I couldn’t do it without the airport team,” she told the council. “There are a lot of dedicated, loyal people at the airport. So you should be proud of that. They’re excellent.”

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<tr>
<th>(New) DATES TO REMEMBER</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CFASPP Round 2020-2 Regional Meetings</td>
<td>Click here for more information</td>
<td>July 14 - 30, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEBINAR: FAA Advisory Circular 150/5200-33C</td>
<td>Click here for more information</td>
<td>July 29, 2020 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFASPP Statewide Meeting</td>
<td>Click here for more information</td>
<td>August 20, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>FAA 2020 Southern Regional Airports Conference</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA Click here for additional information</td>
<td>April 5-8, 2021 (New Dates)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020 Education &amp; Training Summit</td>
<td>Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista South Click here for more information and to register</td>
<td>October 7-9, 2020</td>
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Please email lisa@floridaairports.org with calendar updates.
Congratulations Mark Gale,
CEO Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, elected to the Executive Committee of AAAE during the association’s 92nd Annual Conference and Exposition in May 2020.

Tampa mandates wearing of masks

The city of Tampa, Florida, has made the wearing of masks mandatory in all indoor locations in the city, including Tampa International, when social distancing is not possible.

Since early May, all of Tampa International’s employees have been required to wear face masks in public areas or in areas where six feet of separation is not possible.

There is still time to submit your resume for consideration for a position on the FAC Board of Directors for a term that would begin October 1, 2020 and run through September 30, 2023. If interested, please send your resume to lisa@floridaairports.org before July 6, 2020.

Orlando Sanford International Airport now offering contact-less parking

Orlando Sanford International Airport (SFB) is now offering a new way to park, with limited surface contact to avoid exposure to the coronavirus and other germs. Available through REEF Technology, the touchless license plate reader takes a picture of the car’s license plate upon arrival at the garage and then records another at departure.

Register for FAC’s Upcoming Webinars

July 29 2020 - FAA Advisory Circular 150/5200-33C

AC 150/5200-33 recently went through a major update and a few important changes were made in the latest version released in February 2020. In this FAC Webinar, Amy Anderson (FAA National Wildlife Biologist) will discuss: (1) separation distances between airports and wildlife attractants, (2) updated language regarding recommendations for non-certificated airports, (3) land uses that may attract hazardous wildlife, and (4) recommendations for addressing off-airport attractants. Ms. Anderson will also be available to answer any questions and/or clarify any parts of the new AC.

Have a Safe & Happy 4th of July from the FAC Team!
Boca Raton Airport Authority provides support to Boca Helping Hands for COVID-19 relief

In early June, staff from the Boca Raton Airport Authority volunteered at Boca Helping Hands and made a $5,000 donation on behalf of the Boca Raton Airport. Staff members made sandwiches and helped prepare 150 hot meals for distribution to Boca Helping Hands clients.

Boca Helping Hands is a community-based 501(c) (3) organization whose mission is to provide food, medical, and financial assistance to meet basic human needs, as well as education, job training, and guidance to create self-sufficiency.

Karen Swedenborg, Boca Helping Hands Development Manager, stated that they have seen demand for their hot meals program nearly double since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis and an additional 1,350 families have requested assistance since March. Ms. Swedenborg estimates that Boca Helping Hands volunteers are serving 350 meals and distributing 300 pantry bags daily since the start of the pandemic.

Ms. Swedenborg added that the Airport Authority’s donation would provide 1,250 hot meals or 70 pantry bags of groceries to area residents. Each pantry bag contains enough food to feed a family of four for a week.

“In this time of great need, local non-profits have continued to provide critical services to our area’s neediest citizens. We are happy to support Boca Helping Hands continue their efforts in support of the community by volunteering our time and making this donation,” said Boca Raton Airport Authority Executive Director Clara Bennett.

Boca Helping Hands is always looking for volunteers and is currently accepting monetary and food donations to replenish their pantry. Anyone who would like to help can find additional information on their website https://www.bocahelpinghands.org/.

House infrastructure bill includes billions for airports

House Democrats on June 22 unveiled a broad $1.5 trillion infrastructure package — H.R. 2, the Moving America Forward Act — that includes funding to help airports build critical infrastructure projects and pay for some of their COVID-19-related expenses.

“The broad package includes the surface transportation bill approved last week by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee along with funding for other traditional infrastructure projects as well education, housing, broadband, and other priorities. For airports, the bill would authorize a total of $37.5 billion through fiscal year 2025, including $20 billion for the traditional AIP program.

AAAE President and CEO Todd Hauptli applauded the legislation. He stated, “Further investments in America’s airports will pay dividends now and for generations to come through job creation and the enhancement of facilities to meet post-coronavirus needs and the return of robust travel levels…”

- AAAE President & CEO Todd Hauptli

Democratic leaders are moving quickly on their infrastructure initiative and plan to bring the bill to the House floor this week and finish it before July 4.
New study: travel spending in U.S. to plunge 45% this year

Total travel spending in the U.S. is predicted to drop 45% by the end of this year, spurring renewed calls for federal measures to support the industry that was one of the top U.S. employers and exporters prior to the pandemic.

According to a forecast prepared for the U.S. Travel Association by Tourism Economics, domestic travel spending is forecast to drop 40% (from $972 billion in 2019 to $583 billion in 2020) while international inbound spending is expected to freefall a whopping 75% ($155 billion to $39 billion).

Total domestic trips taken by U.S. residents are expected to fall 30% from last year to 1.6 billion—the lowest figure since 1991, another recession year.

CBP Head testifies before Senate panel

The grim forecast numbers arrive as U.S. Travel commences its first-ever “Virtual Hill Week,” connecting members of the industry with lawmakers to discuss travel priorities and needs.

Nearly 300 industry members will participate in 75 online meetings with lawmakers in both the House and Senate.

“The data is telling us that travel and tourism has been more severely damaged than any other U.S. industry by the economic fallout of the health crisis,” said U.S. Travel Association Executive Vice President for Public Affairs and Policy Tori Emerson Barnes. “Given that travel employed one in 10 Americans and was the No. 2 U.S. export before the pandemic, supporting this industry through to the recovery phase ought to be a national priority.

Keep Reading...

CBP Head testifies before Senate panel (Source: ACI-NA)

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee held an oversight hearing on the challenges facing Customs and Border Protection (CBP), with Mr. Mark Morgan, the Chief Operating Officer and Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Commissioner, serving as the sole witness.

You can view the hearing here and find Morgan’s testimony here.

Ranking Member Gary Peters (D-MI) asked a series of questions about CBP activities at airports.

First, he asked about the status of border restrictions with Canada. Morgan responded that U.S. officials talk daily with their Canadian counterparts about conditions on both sides of the border. Morgan expects traffic at land-border crossings to rebound fairly quickly once restrictions are lifted, but expects recovery to be slower on the air side.

Next, Peters asked about what is being done differently at airports as compared to the beginning of the pandemic, where there were long lines with federal inspection facilities and CBP officers lacked personal protective equipment (PPE.) Morgan responded that CBP is working closely with CDC and the airlines on health screenings of arriving passengers, and it is distributing PPE to agency employees. He cited the importance of contract tracing to track arriving passengers.

Finally, Peters asked about the shortfall in user-fee collections and the possibility of furloughs at CBP. Morgan responded that the agency, which relies on user fees to fund about 40 percent of its workforce, anticipates a $600-700 million user-fee shortfall this fiscal year. While he does not expect any imminent furloughs, he said the agency will need funding assistance from Congress.

Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL) asked about what needs to be done to make the airport environment safer. Morgan responded that CBP is implementing all of CDC’s recommendations, as well as working with stakeholders, specifically mentioning airlines, to better assess travelers before and upon their arrival to the United States.
TSA issues roadmap to address current global risks

TSA Administrator David Pekoske last week presented his objectives to guide the agency and its workforce over the next two years to manage new global security risks that impact all modes of transportation.

The “Administrator’s Intent 2.0,” addresses tangible security threats across seven broad categories: insider risk, surface transportation, checkpoint strategies, workforce support, cybersecurity, outcome-oriented policy management, and utilization of TSA’s security authorities.

“I am proud of the hard work and achievements TSA has made over the previous two years as a result of the first Administrator’s Intent released in 2018, and am confident in our dedicated professionals as we reprioritize our efforts on emerging threats,” Pekoske said. “Administrator’s Intent 2.0 builds upon the successes achieved to date and acknowledges the agility and adaptability necessary in our ongoing response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.”

NATA releases fire marshal toolkit & accidental foam discharge checklist

Earlier in June, the National Air Transportation Association (NATA) released the Fire Marshal Toolkit and Accidental Foam Discharge Checklist as part of its Hangar Foam Fire Suppression System Initiative. An educational resource for Fire Marshals, FBO owners, and operators, the Toolkit provides vital information facilitating hangar design and construction conversations and highlighting research and frequency data on inadvertent hangar foam fire suppression system discharges.

This free online resource provides information on FBO operations and includes detailed information on factors impacting the decision to use foam fire suppression in hangars, including:

→ Aviation fuels
→ Types of foam

Airlines carry less international cargo in April

U.S. and foreign airlines carried 21 percent less cargo by weight between the U.S. and foreign points in April 2020 than in April 2019, including a 44 percent decline in cargo between the U.S. and Europe, DOT said.
Philadelphia Airport, a Trans-Atlantic hub with no Trans-Atlantic flights, will offer incentives to airlines

Philadelphia International Airport, a preeminent trans-Atlantic hub that for the moment has not a single trans-Atlantic passenger flight, says it has launched an incentive program intended to help it reclaim traffic lost to the coronavirus crisis.

The airport said it would waive airport fees and provide outdoor advertising for both passenger and cargo airlines that add flights.

On the passenger side, the incentives could be several thousand dollars per flight in waivers of charges including federal inspection fees, deplaning fees and landing fees, which depend on aircraft weight. Plan expense is capped at $6 million.

“The idea was for us to be one of the first airports in the U.S. to have an incentive plan to help with the recovery,” said Stephanie Wear, the airport’s director of air service development and cargo services.

“Because of this unprecedented situation, we need to help our airline partners get back to 2019, a record-breaking year for Philadelphia airport, and we’d like to get back as quickly as we can,” she said.

Keep reading..

Business & Employment Opportunities

Lee County Port Authority
Southwest Florida International Airport
11000 Terminal Access Road, Suite 8671
Fort Myers, FL 33913-8899

LEGAL NOTICE
RFB 20-54MMW
Cargo Ramp and Taxiways A3 & A4 Rehabilitation
at Southwest Florida International Airport

The Lee County Port Authority (Authority) invites the submission of sealed bids from all interested and qualified bidders for the rehabilitation of CARGO RAMP AND TAXIWAYS A3 & A4 at Southwest Florida International Airport.

Solicitation documents are available electronically at https://flylcpa.ionwave.net/Login.aspx.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on June 30, 2020. Potential bidders may participate remotely only.

To participate remotely, potential bidders must select one or both of the following options:

Login: https://meet.google.com/rsw-cjyd-twx?hs=1222&authuser=0 or Phone: (US)+1 252-665-6508 PIN: 278 635 178#

Roll call will be taken. Remote attendees must be able to communicate bidder representative name and company for the attendance register.

Sealed bids must be submitted electronically in Ionwave at https://flylcpa.ionwave.net/Login.aspx no later than 2:00 p.m., July 17, 2020.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES: Any person needing special accommodation to attend a public meeting such as a pre-bid meeting or the public opening should contact the Authority’s contact person listed below at least 7 days prior to the scheduled meeting.

The Lee County Port Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Woman and Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (W/MBE) companies are encouraged to respond to this notification.

For more information, please contact Melissa M. Wendel, CPPO - Procurement Manager at (239) 590-4557 or email: mmwendel@flylcpa.com.
Position: Manager of Finance and Administration
Salary: $59,302.62 - $91,785.93

Under general supervision of the Director of Finance and Administration, assists with all accounting, fiscal management, personnel and administrative functions of the Airport Authority. Responsibilities include: assisting lease and property administration; airport insurance program; fiscal administration of federal and state grant programs; human resources management; and performs other duties as assigned to meet needs of the Airport Authority.

For more information, visit www.iflybeaches.com or click here.

Position: Airport Security Specialist
Salary: $12.92 to $29.61 hourly
Estimated hiring rate approximately $15.50 hourly
Application Deadline: Before 5:00 p.m. ET on July 3, 2020

This is technical and specialized work in which class incumbents provide airport security. Work involves monitoring and enforcing day-to-day security at the airport facility and coordinating the response to airport emergencies, which may include periods of high stress. Operates airport surveillance, access control, fire alarm, flight information, communications and building management systems. Provides enforcement of curbside parking and ground transportation operations. Issues Notice of Violations (NOVs) and parking citations as necessary. Provides dispatch services and coordinates police, fire, emergency medical services and airport operations’ response to emergency and non-emergency calls for service. Identifies safety and security violations and reports suspicious activities. Provides customer services such as answering questions, giving directions, and helping customers to resolve complaints and requests for information. Maintains activity logs and other records. Uses checklists in the performance of duties. Performs related work as required.

Position: Airport Facility Manager
Salary: 12.11 - $23.46 hourly / $25,188.80 - $48,796.80 annually

The Airport Facility Manager is a skilled, administrative position requiring professional knowledge and supervisory accountabilities. This position is responsible for the day to day operations of Suwannee County Airport and the subordinate staff. This position reports to the Airport Manager.

For more information, visit www.suwanneecounty.org or click here.

Attention FAC Members:
If you have business and/or employment opportunities that you would like to see advertised in the Airmail Newsletter, simply send the posting to gina@floridaairports.org