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# AIRMAIL '20



October 1, 2020

Issue 20-16



## *Registration is open for the Virtual Education and Training Summit is Open*

Visit the FAC website to learn more about the great sessions and speakers planned for this virtual event. A special Thank You to our meeting and session sponsors. Your support is critical to the success of the summit.



Don't forget to show your support for the FAC Education Foundation and scholarship and internship programs. The Virtual Fun Run is still open...[click here](#) to make your donation.

**Click Here to Register for the Summit Today!**

## *A message from our departing Chairman of the Board*

Dear Members -

It has been my honor to serve the membership of the Florida Airports Council this past year, and it's hard to believe my term as chairman has ended.

When we met at the close of the Annual Conference last year in Fort Lauderdale, our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, none of us anticipated what we would face with the global COVID-19 pandemic, or as I like to call it "Covidity". Florida Airports were growing with record numbers of passengers, aircraft operations, flight training and growth in aircraft manufacturing and space related activities. Florida Airports supporting neighboring seaports and cruise lines were experiencing record growth. That all changed in March 2020. Like all of our airport and corporate members, FAC pivoted to do all we could to reduce our costs to help make it through the financial challenge and position our Association for the future.

We made several difficult, unprecedented decisions that impacted all of us: cancelling the Annual Conference, and moving and changing the format of the Education and Training Summit to a virtual format, which is scheduled for early October. Good News - the 2021 Annual Conference is on track for July 18<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, in Jacksonville.

We also undertook and updated our Strategic Plan. As we look to the future, we are focused on our presence in Tallahassee. FAC is a state aviation organization and as such our goal should include strong relationships with state agencies, other similar organizations and of course our legislative delegations and their staff. This will continue to be a primary focus of our Staff and future Boards.

Throughout this extraordinary time, we have been fortunate to have the team of professionals at our Orlando ADO and Florida Central and District DOT offices to support us. While working remotely, FAA and FDOT staff have been dedicated to assisting our airports complete CARES-Act, AIP and PTGA agreements. FAC's corporate members have also continued to shine by providing non-stop support to our airports throughout the grant cycle.

Hurricanes are a part of Florida's history and our future. This year has proven to be no different, as we saw several hurricanes eye the Gulf Coast and Hurricane Sally hitting the west end of the Panhandle and impacting Pensacola. Florida's Airport and SEADOG were prepared to assist and fortunately our efforts were not necessary, but we can't take our eyes off the radar as storms develop quickly. Hurricanes have a significant impact on our staff and those supporting our airports. Just a reminder - there are ways to help your friends and colleagues impacted by a hurricane or natural disaster; please check out our soon-to-be updated website for ways you can help.

I am going to end this letter the same way I started the year. Throughout my career, I have been involved in many aviation/airport/transportation trade organizations. FAMA/FAC has always been the premier State Aviation Association, and I am humbled for the opportunity to have served as your 2020 Chair.

You are in good hands with Luis Olivero and the new Board of Directors. Please feel free to reach out to any Board member or FAC Staff if we can do anything to assist with an issue or you have an idea to make things better.

Thank You



2020 FAC Chairman

**Welcome  
New  
FAC Member!!**

**Dassault Systemes**  
Todd Finazzo  
3411 Atlantic Circle  
Naples, FL 34119  
(586) 747-22687  
[todd.finazzo@3ds.com](mailto:todd.finazzo@3ds.com)

## 2021 State Legislative Priorities take shape

Normally, the FAC State Affairs Committee takes the summer off to prepare for the next legislative session. NOT SO this year. The Committee has worked non-stop to monitor activities of the State and Federal government regarding the Governor's Executive Orders, the CARES Act, FAA grant awards and subsequent U.S. House and Senate proposals.

Also, this time of year, we would normally begin planning for our State Legislative Fly-in. The regular session begins March 2, 2021. However, due to the pandemic, most elected officials and legislative staff are only meeting in their districts face-to-face, or via a virtual platform. FAC is working with our lobby team and airport members to determine how to appropriately schedule virtual meetings with key officials so that we can share our concerns and priorities. PLEASE continue to stay in touch with your state and federal representatives and reach out to FAC if we can support you in any way.

The State Transportation budget will be a huge issue this year, so we will be monitoring FDOT's proposals very closely and working with central and district office staff to support their budget requests. The next state Affairs call is scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. Go to the committee's webpage to view the most recent postings - Get involved. Below is a list of the Council's current priorities:

## **2021 Legislative Session - State Affairs Chair, Roy Sieger, FIN; Vice-Chair, Chad Rosenstein, LCPA**

### **HIGH**

1. **State Funding for Airport Development Grant Program** - FAC SUPPORTS state funding for airport development that is no less than that which is proposed by FDOT in the Tentative Work Plan for 2021/22.
2. **PFAS** - FAC SUPPORTS legislation that provides exemptions to liability from the costs associated with any investigation or clean-up and any 3<sup>rd</sup> party claims as the FAA **requires** airports to use these substances for Aircraft Firefighting purposes.
3. **Aviation Fuel Taxes** - FAC OPPOSES further reductions to the State Aviation Fuel Tax.
4. **Peer-to-Peer Car Sharing** - FAC SUPPORTS legislation that ensures parity for this line of business with similar car sharing and TNC's.
5. **Legislation related to Transportation/Engineering/CEI services on Airport projects** - FAC SUPPORTS an exemption for airports.
6. **Commercial Service Airports - Transparency in governing airports**, FAC SUPPORTS greater flexibility on the procurement thresholds for commodities and contractual services identified under FS 287.
7. **Diesel Exhaust Fluid** - FAC has developed Operational Best Management Practices for the prevention of fuel contamination. FAC OPPOSES legislative action that interferes with airport management and FBO contracts regarding the use of DEF.
8. **F.S. Chapter 332.007 6.(a) 2(c)** (FDOT airport project funding) - FAC SUPPORTS revisions to state statutes to allow FDOT to increase the percent of nonfederal share of airport projects for airports providing commercial air service that are not classified as large, medium or small hub by the FAA from 50% to 80%.

### **SUPPORT**

9. **Elimination of Tax on Aircraft Sales and Leases** - FAC SUPPORTS the elimination of the state's tax on the sale or lease of all aircraft in the State of Florida.

### **MONITORING**

10. **Concealed Weapons & Firearms/airport areas** - FAC OPPOSES any legislation related to concealed weapons and firearms that would allow an individual to openly or concealed carry a handgun on airport property.
11. **Transportation Network Companies** - FAC SUPPORTS the removal of for-hire vehicles from the list of those exempt from airport regulations.
12. **Real-ID** - FAC SUPPORTS airport efforts to educate the traveling public regarding Real-ID.
13. **Prohibited Areas for Weapons and Firearms** - FAC will monitor proposals regarding carry of weapons in designated areas.
14. **Deregulation of Professions and Occupations** - FAC will monitor proposals regarding deregulation of professions and occupations, focusing on those that might impact Florida Airports and Businesses
15. **Legislation related to Special Districts** - FAC will monitor proposals that might impact special districts.

**AIRPORT MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

***Orlando Melbourne Int'l crowned most scenic airport in North America***



Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) has been crowned the #1 Most Scenic Airport in North America, marking the fourth year on PrivateFly's annually published list. Central Florida's coastal airport has reigned as the #1 Most Scenic Airport in the USA since 2017, but this year has been elevated as the #1 airport in North America.

"We are excited to top the North American list of most scenic airports," said Greg Donovan, A.A.E., executive director at MLB. "We owe a big thank you to our community, passengers and friends that continue to vote and acknowledge how remarkable the views on our approaches and departures truly are."

MLB has remained a major competitor on the global list as 2020's #4 Most Scenic Airport in the World. The beachside airport was first recognized for its beauty in 2017 when it debuted at #8, and has consistently moved up the list to #6 in 2018 and then again to #4 in 2019.

Voters also commented on MLB with one fan adding, "As you fly over Central Florida not only do you get to see the wildlife, major highways and small towns, but you also get to see the Space Coast as you come in further to land. If you come in from the east you then get the amazing view of Melbourne Beach and the Atlantic Ocean. Breathtaking!"

The award-winning airport continues to grow and earn global recognition with its latest victories including Aerion Supersonic announcing MLB as the location of its new Aerion Park headquarters where it will design and build its AS2 supersonic business jet, and TUI UK announcing MLB as its new gateway to Florida for all its customers beginning in early 2022. These announcements have sparked millions in investment with a terminal renovation and expansion project underway and the development of a unique fly-in hotel that will have access to the airfield and the passenger terminal, and have a rooftop bar so aviation enthusiasts, travelers and visitors can view the airport's scenic views.

**NEW FROM OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS**

***Just Released: ACRP WebResource 8: Integrating Social Media with Emergency Management at Airports***

The Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) has released ACRP WebResource 8: Integrating Social Media with Emergency Management at Airports. Social media (SM) has transcended its traditional role as an entertaining pastime and become a vital part of our lives. Today, SM is an important, if not crucial, tool for sharing information among individuals and for connecting organizations with their customers. For this reason, SM managers are quickly becoming critical elements to emergency management (EM) for information gathering and sharing. Integrating SM with EM can be highly beneficial during incidents, emergencies, and irregular operations, providing improved situational awareness and reducing the time it takes to return to normal operations. Whether your airport is a large hub or a general aviation airport, this WebResource guides you through the steps of developing a program for integrating the two disciplines, and it provides many resources to help you get the most out of your new program.

Access it here: <http://www.trb.org/Publications/Blurbs/181207.aspx>



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

( New ← )

	Location	Date
2020 Education & Training Summit	Virtual <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a> for more information	October 7-9, 2020
CFASPP Regional Meetings	Click <a href="#">here</a> for more information	October 13-29, 2020 ←
CFASPP Statewide Meeting		November 19, 2020 ←
FAA 2020 Southern Regional Airports Conference	Atlanta, GA Click <a href="#">here</a> for additional information	April 5-8, 2021 (New Dates)

Please email [lisa@floridaairports.org](mailto:lisa@floridaairports.org) with calendar updates.

## EDUCATION MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### *Saving turtles also salvages senior year, ERAU students join conservation effort*



Andrés Larrota and John Robbins of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University conduct final checks before launching a DJI Phantom 4 Pro.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Daytona Beach, Florida, campus is within easy reach of the world's most popular loggerhead turtle nesting sites along the state's eastern shore. Not much was easy to reach in the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic, however, with shutdowns, social distancing, and travel off the table for many, Embry-Riddle moved classes online and shut down flight operations.

That left Andrés Larrota, a native of South America who moved to the United States nearly two decades ago, among many Embry-Riddle seniors in need of flight experience with graduation approaching fast. Larrota has been aiming to become a professional pilot since his first encounter with aviation as a child, a six-hour red-eye flight from Colombia to New York that lit the spark.

"I did not sleep a single minute. I was just looking out the window to see what was going on and listen to all of the noises," said Larrota, in a recent video chat.

That sleepless flight eventually led Larrota to Embry-Riddle, where he quickly earned his private pilot certificate and an instrument rating. Then, he discovered the school's unmanned aviation offerings as a sophomore. Larrota has a unique connection to unmanned aircraft systems: His father works in Colombia as a land surveyor and uses unmanned aircraft for photogrammetry and topography work. Larrota's father gave the young pilot a DJI Phantom 4, and that proved to be enough to nudge him onto a new course studying UAS.

Larrota was lined up for a study-abroad trip to the Balkan Peninsula when the pandemic struck, planning to join a team of professors and fellow students on a project to survey archaeological sites with UAS, and develop urban air mobility concepts as well.

"That was going to be my first hands-on experience," Larrota said. "When the coronavirus hit I was left with nothing."

He was stuck in Florida with time on his hands and not much to do, until he remembered a conversation with professor John Robbins, and decided to follow up. Robbins is Embry-Riddle's unmanned aircraft systems program coordinator, and he had an opening on a team of eight students being assembled for a turtle conservation mission to work alongside staff from Northrop Grumman and the Brevard Zoo. The collaborative effort, known as "Turtle Tech," seeks to learn more about the types of turtles inhabiting Florida's Space Coast, and their nesting patterns.

Turtles might not be suffering the consequences of the coronavirus, but they do have other problems. While sea turtles might lay 100 eggs or more in each nest, biologists estimate that only one in 1,000—and perhaps as few as one in 10,000—hatchlings will reach adulthood. The reasons range from racoons to artificial lighting on beaches, and this attrition threatens the survival of many species of sea turtles.

That's where Turtle Tech comes in. The program is working to launch a sophisticated surveillance effort to provide crucial conservation insights by documenting hatching events and migration behavior on a massive scale with minimal personnel. Turtle Tech has earned buy-in from several corporate, educational, and governmental organizations including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Sea Turtle Conservancy, among others.



A rare Kemp's Ridley sea turtle builds her nest. (Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.)

**Keep Reading...**



## AROUND THE NATION

***AAAE urges House Leaders to support aviation ecosystem in relief package***

**H**ouse Democratic leaders are drafting a \$2.4 trillion coronavirus relief package that could be considered as early as this week that reportedly includes funding for the airlines in an effort to save tens of thousands of jobs.

While extending the Payroll Support Program (PPP) is an important step, AAEE is pushing for Congress also to provide help for airports and their other industry partners, including concessionaires.

AAAE President and CEO Todd Hauptli sent a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) on Sept. 25 that stressed the interconnected, interdependent nature of the aviation ecosystem.

Hauptli wrote that, "All segments of our industry have been hit hard by the precipitous declines in passengers and revenue, and the timeline for recovery is likely to be lengthy."

He stated, "The airport community has asked Washington for \$15 billion in necessary additional relief: \$13 billion for commercial service airports; \$1.5 billion for general aviation airports; and \$500 million to address local matching share issues for fiscal year 2021. In addition to direct airport assistance, we've requested \$3.5 billion in federal assistance to allow airports to provide relief for airport concessionaires. Again, the entire aviation ecosystem has been dramatically dislocated and needs help to serve our customers and keep the aviation system functional."

***Florida Airport members - Reach out to your congressional representatives so your voice is heard!***

***FAA to issue \$335 million in grants to 80 airports***

**F**AA announced that it will award \$335 million in grants to 80 airports in 25 states.

The total includes \$300 million from AIP and \$35 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act grants to equal a 100 percent federal share.

A complete listing of grants is available [here](#) and an interactive map of airports receiving funding is available [here](#).

FL airport grants are listed below:

- ⇒ BOW Update Airport Master Plan \$666,666
- ⇒ RSW Install Runway Incurion Lighting, Rehab. Taxiway, Rehab. Taxiway Lighting \$14,537,517
- ⇒ MLB Reconstruct Apron \$6,000,000



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

***Bill would require temperature checks at security checkpoints***

**S**ens. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) and Rick Scott (R-Fla.) have introduced legislation to require TSA to establish a pilot program to conduct temperature screenings at airport security checkpoints.

If an individual is found to have a temperature of 100.4 or above, the individual would be subject to secondary medical screening and denied admission to the sterile area of the airport. Air carriers would be required to permit passengers who are prohibited from flying because of a fever or as a result of a secondary medical screening to reschedule or cancel their flights at no cost.

At the completion of the pilot program, and based on the most up-to-date public health or scientific information, TSA would be required to issue a policy for deploying a temperature check program at airports and airport screening locations nationwide through the end of the public health emergency.

**Business & Employment Opportunities**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**Request for Proposals (21-03TLB)**  
**Lease of Land for Development and Operation of an Air Freight Building at RSW**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**RFB 20-32TLB Surface Marking Cleaning for Lee County Port Authority**



The Lee County Port Authority ("Authority") invites the submission of Request for Proposals from all interested and qualified parties to conduct Lease of Land for Development and Operation of an Air Freight Building at Southwest Florida International Airport

**SOLICITATION DOCUMENTS:** All documents and instructions for electronic submittal will be available on IonWave <https://flylcpa.ionwave.net> or on the Lee County Port Authority website [www.flylcpa.com/currentprojects/](http://www.flylcpa.com/currentprojects/)

**RECEIVING AND OPENING:** of the Request for Proposals is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., local time, electronically through IonWave services. The Authority will open the electronic submissions remotely through Google Meets Meeting ID: <https://meet.google.com/drv-pkge-gzk> or by phone: 617-675-4444 - PIN: 156 462 479 3937#.

The Lee County Port Authority ("Authority") invites all interested and qualified parties to provide submissions for the above referenced solicitation.

**SOLICITATION DOCUMENTS:** All documents and instructions for submittal will be available on SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, online at [www.flylcpa.ionwave.net](http://www.flylcpa.ionwave.net)

**A NON MANDATORY PRE-BID MEETING:** THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., local time. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and the Florida Governor's Executive Order 20-91, the meeting will be conducted remotely through **GOOGLE HANGOUTS:** [meet.google.com/wjm-bpnn-deq](https://meet.google.com/wjm-bpnn-deq) (required equip: computer, camera/mic) or by phone: 617-675-4444 - PIN: 939 293 289 3840 #

**RECEIVING AND OPENING:** TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020, before 2:00 p.m., local time. Bids must be submitted electronically through IonWave, the Authority's e-bidding platform. To attend the bid opening use the following **GOOGLE HANGOUTS:** [meet.google.com/paa-tadt-zzo](https://meet.google.com/paa-tadt-zzo) or Phone: 617-675-4444 - PIN: 784 263 834 5716 #.

**CONTACT US**

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[www.floridaairports.org](http://www.floridaairports.org)

[info@floridaairports.org](mailto:info@floridaairports.org)

**Position:** Airport Operations Coordinator

**Location:** Stuart, FL 34996

**Job Type:** Full-Time

**Department:** Airport

**Salary:** \$39,997 Annually

**Closing:** October 5, 2020

**Summary**

Conduct airfield inspections to identify, assess, and mitigate hazardous conditions; inspect the condition of airfield lighting, pavement, and markings. Coordinate airport security badging program. Manage airport noise program and generate monthly noise reports. May be assigned to act as Airport Manager in managers absence.

In the event of a natural or man-made disaster that may threaten the area, the employee will be required to perform emergency duties as directed.

*To see this posting in its entirety, click [here](#).*

