

In this issue:

AROUND THE STATE 1

→ State Affairs Virtual Fly-In is history 1

→ Ten big issues to watch during the 2021 session 2

→ FAC Virtual Education & Training Summit on track for April 3

→ St. Petersburg celebrates dedication of the First Flight Monument 3

→ Best wishes Gina Merrick 3

DATES TO REMEMBER 4

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 4

CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS 4

→ How do WE compare? A case study of COVID impact on CS airports in FL 4

→ Passero Associates & Anderson Columbia win Excellence in Pavement Award 4

→ McFarland Johnson expands Jacksonville & Greenville offices & staff 5

AROUND THE NATION 6

→ GA aircraft deliveries decline in 2020 6

→ FAA sets dates for FY 2021 AIP applications 6

→ US airlines record steep increase in cargo 6

BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES 6

AIRMAIL '21



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Issue 21-03

AROUND THE STATE

State Affairs Virtual Fly-In is history

The 2021 State Affairs Fly-in was held virtually this year, for the first time in FAC's 51-year history. There's nothing like meeting face-to-face with your elected representatives and making your case in support of Florida Airports and our industry. It's difficult to gauge how this will impact our legislative priorities, but it is a major challenge that as an organization we can overcome.

⇒ Each airport and corporate member should dedicate more time this year to reach out to your elected representatives.

- Forward the FAC Legislative Priorities and Airport Infographic to your representatives and staff. Click [HERE](#) for the most recent copies.

⇒ Stay in-tune with FAC's legislative priorities as the session progresses, beginning March 2nd.

- Participate in FAC's State Affairs calls - we are briefed on the status of our priorities and movement through key committees.
- Each meeting agenda is posted on the committee webpage - the next call is Monday, March 1st at 3:30 p.m. EST.

⇒ Participate in a hearing where an FAC issue is being addressed and let your voice be heard. If your representative is on a key committee, communicate our priorities and ask them how we might support them. House and Senate schedules are posted on the following websites: www.myfloridahouse.gov and www.flsenate.gov

The Virtual Fly-In was a success due to the participation of our great sponsors - Naples Airport Authority, Michael Baker International and Hanson Professional Services, the outstanding speakers and presenters that provided up-to-date information on key legislative issues, and our member participants. Thank You to all for your interest in Florida airport and aviation issues and for supporting this event.



Welcome Sponsor



Session Sponsors



Ten big issues to watch during the 2021 session

The 2021 legislative session will start March 2nd, with Gov. Ron DeSantis giving the annual State of the State address. Lawmakers will take up a wide range of issues during the 60-day session, along with negotiating a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Here are 10 big issues to watch during the session:

BUDGET: With the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic reducing expected tax revenues, legislative leaders have warned repeatedly that they likely will make budget cuts. But Gov. Ron DeSantis in January released a record \$96.6 billion budget proposal for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, which will start July 1. DeSantis' proposal is a starting point for lawmakers, who have continued to offer a less-rosy view of the state's finances.

EDUCATION: Continuing years of Republican efforts to boost school choice, lawmakers are considering a major school-vouchers bill that includes expanding eligibility for scholarship programs and creating what are known as "education savings accounts." Meanwhile, public schools will be a key budget issue, in part because lawmakers will have to decide how to address nearly 88,000 students who did not enroll as expected this year during the pandemic.

ELECTIONS: Republican leaders are backing controversial proposals that would change the vote-by-mail process. As an example, one proposal would require voters to request vote-by-mail ballots more frequently, while another would prevent volunteers from collecting vote-by-mail ballots from people outside of their families. Critics argue the proposals are aimed at reducing mail-in voting, which Democrats used heavily during the 2020 elections.

ENVIRONMENT: DeSantis is asking lawmakers for \$625 million to continue a multi-year effort to restore the Everglades and address other water-related issues, such as springs restoration. But he also is pitching a new "Resilient Florida" program, which would involve issuing bonds to help provide \$1 billion over four years to state and local governments to address climate-change impacts, such as rising sea levels.

HEALTH CARE: As the largest part of the state budget, health and human services will play a key role as lawmakers negotiate a new spending plan. One closely watched issue will be Medicaid reimbursement rates for hospitals and nursing homes. Lawmakers could look to reduce state dollars going

into Medicaid without slashing rates, possibly through a new hospital arrangement that would involve local money being used to draw down federal matching funds.

INSURANCE: Senate leaders are backing a long-debated idea to eliminate Florida's no-fault auto insurance system and the requirement that motorists carry personal-injury protection, or PIP, coverage. The proposal would lead to motorists being required to carry bodily injury coverage. Also, lawmakers could make changes in the property-insurance system, as premiums increase and more homeowners turn to the state-backed Citizens Property Insurance Corp.

LIABILITY: Health-care providers and other businesses are clamoring for protections from coronavirus-related lawsuits. The House is poised to quickly pass a bill that would shield non-health care businesses from liability, But lawmakers are wrestling with some thorny issues, including details of protections for nursing homes and assisted living facilities, which have seen more than 10,000 deaths during the pandemic.

PROTESTS: One of the hottest debates during the session could center on proposals by Republican leaders to enhance penalties associated with violent protests, create new crimes when mobs attack property or police and make it difficult for cities to trim law-enforcement spending. The proposals have drawn criticism from Democrats who say they are unnecessary and divisive and could be used to squash peaceful assemblies.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: Senate Republicans are backing a controversial proposal that would affect public-employee union dues, while also looking at possibly moving away from the state's traditional pension system for government workers. Unions have lined up to fight the union dues proposal, which would put additional requirements on the process for deducting dues from paychecks. The other proposal could shift new workers to a 401(k)-style system.

TAXES: With Florida businesses pushing for the change, lawmakers are considering a proposal that would require out-of-state online retailers to collect sales taxes on purchases made by Floridians. Currently, retailers that have a physical presence in Florida must collect and remit sales taxes for items sold in the state. The bill seeks to put the same responsibility on retailers that don't have such a presence but sell products to Floridians.

On Friday, February 19, 2021, FAA announced \$20 million grant to Fort Lauderdale Hollywood Intl. Airport to reimburse the airport for costs associated with the extension of runway 10R/28L to 8,000 feet.

FAC Virtual Education & Training Summit is on track for April 20-22, 2021

Key committees are developing an agenda of outstanding topics and speakers for the April 2021 E & T Summit.

- Training committee will host a session focusing on managing the return to office engagement
- Noise and community affairs committee will present a discussion on urban air mobility
- Information technology committee will host a session discussing cyber security awareness
- Corporate committee will offer "innovation stations" for members to spotlight current projects, delivery methods and more

Stay tuned to the FAC Website for the opening of E & T Summit registration

St. Petersburg celebrates dedication of the First Flight Monument

A massive plane sculpture has been installed at St. Pete Pier to honor St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line, the world's first commercial airline.



The monument is a full scale replica of a plane made out of surgical grade, stainless steel, according to Mark Aeling, the artist who created it. Aeling owns MGA

Sculpture Studio in St. Pete.

"This is where the story will be told. They'll see an exact replica of the original, the first airliner, the first airliner in the world right here in St. Petersburg," said Will Michaels, a historian with Flight 2014.

On New Year's Day in 1914, pilot Tony Jannus flew his first passenger, former St. Pete Mayor Abe Pheil, across the bay to downtown Tampa. The flight took 23 minutes, and thus the St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line was launched. It only lasted one season, ferrying a total of about a 1,000 passengers in its short time.

"It gave other people the idea of organizing aviation into a

business and creating a new form of transportation," Michaels added. The City of St. Petersburg was behind the project, which cost \$1 million in funding from private donors. The Florida Airports Council donated \$2,500 in support of the project.



"We tried to create something that had something for everyone," said Ed Montanari, a St. Petersburg city councilman and a pilot for American Airlines. The monument is located at the launching point near the St. Pete Pier.

"This is a major history component, but it's something else to see out here," said Montanari. Visitors can learn more about the first airline and see artifacts from its launch at the St. Petersburg Museum of History. More information is available on airlinecentennial.org.

Best wishes Gina Merrick

We are sad to announce that Gina is leaving FAC, but wish her well in her new opportunity moving forward. Gina joined FAC in 2017 after retiring from the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority. Due to her knowledge of how airports work, great working relationship with many of our airport and corporate members, and skills working with our various electronic platforms, Gina helped elevate FAC into a new era of connectivity and communication. Gina's last day at FAC is Friday, February 26th. The office will have temporary support until the position can be filled. ***We will miss Gina but wish her the best!***



CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

How do WE compare? – A case study of COVID impact on Commercial Service Airports in Florida

For the first time in the history of the world, in 2020 everyone has been concerned about the same thing at the same time. The pandemic has impacted everyone personally and professionally. For the aviation industry, 2020 started off with increased activity at most airports and then came the pandemic. Everyone knows how their airport has performed and many question how their airport compares to their peers.

Slack, Johnston & Magenheimer has prepared a case study including over 1,000 data points at Florida's commercial service airports to assist in answering the question "How do WE compare?"

Click [HERE](#) to view the report.



**Welcome Back
To FAC!!**

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Passero Associates and Anderson Columbia win Excellence in Pavement Award for Lake City Gateway Airport Runway 10-28



Passero Associates, LLC and Anderson Columbia Company, Inc. have been recognized for their work on the pavement rehabilitation of Lake City Gateway Airport Runway 10-28 by the Asphalt Contractors Association of Florida with the 2020 Special Project Award in FDOT District 2.

The Asphalt Contractors Association of Florida, Inc. (ACAF, Inc.), was founded in 1957 to represent the Asphalt Industry in Florida. The Association provides its members with new and innovative information relating to asphalt and construction specifications. The Association recognizes the best asphalt pavements constructed in Florida each year. The Special Projects Category is for any project of a special or unique nature requiring specialized equipment, techniques, materials,

time restrictions, or operating conditions.

The critical factor for completing this project on-time and on-budget was effective coordination with the City of Lake City and the airport hangar tenants, HAECO, Inc. and the USDA Forestry Service. The project scope was to profile mill the existing asphalt surface, place a truing and leveling course where needed, and place two inches of a surface course. All bituminous pavement met the requirements of FAA's P-401 technical requirements. The challenge became the time required to execute the process.

The team worked together to change the original five-phase construction plan of two months, during which the entire

DATES TO REMEMBER

(New ←)

	Location	Date
FAA 2020 Southern Regional Airports Conference	Atlanta, GA Click here for additional information	April 5-8, 2021
2021 FAC VIRTUAL Education & Training Summit	Virtual	April 20-22, 2021 <i>NEW DATES</i>
2021 FAC Annual Conference & Exposition	Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront	July 18-21, 2021

Please email lisa@floridaairports.org with calendar updates.

airport would be closed, to a four-phase project where the airport was closed for a total of only 25 days. This revised plan minimized monetary impacts for both the City and the tenants, and helped bring the project in under budget, even with additional Owner-directed scope.

Project funding was provided by the FAA, FDOT, and the City of Lake City. Project design and construction management services provided to the City by Passero Associates, LLC. Airport management and tenant coordination assistance provided by the staff at Lake City Gateway Airport and the City of Lake City. The safety of all aircraft and ground vehicle traffic was ensured by the staff at the ATC tower. Project construction was accomplished by Anderson Columbia Construction and their subcontractors.

PROJECT STATISTICS

Cost: Spent \$6.436M of possible \$6.561M awarded. Completed all work at \$125,000 below budget.

Schedule: Used 247 of 300 days. Completed all work 53 days ahead of schedule.

Owner: City of Lake City

Owner's Representatives: Roland Luster, Brad Byrd and Ed Bunnell (Airport Management), City Manager Joseph Helfenberger

Contractor: Anderson-Columbia, Inc.; Project Manager A. J. Land, Project Superintendent Ricky Reed

Engineer: Passero Associates, LLC; Dave Harris and Brad Wente, PE

Funding Agencies: FAA and Florida Dept of Transportation

McFarland Johnson expands Jacksonville & Greenville offices & staff

McFarland Johnson (MJ), a 100% employee-owned planning, engineering, and construction services firm, is pleased to announce its continued expansion in the Southeast.

To better serve our growing practice in Florida, we are excited to announce our new larger Jacksonville, FL office located in the heart of Jacksonville Beach. This office will continue to serve our Aviation division throughout Florida and the Southeast with planning, engineering, and environmental services.



Joining our expanded Jacksonville office is Airport Engineer Amanda Sheridan, PE. Amanda's 6 years of aviation industry engineering experience has involved numerous airside and landside projects throughout the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic at both general aviation and commercial service airports since graduating from State University of New York at Buffalo. Her project management experience includes design and inspection of runways, taxiway's, aprons, and roadways for projects in Florida and the Southeast. In addition to serving as Project Manager for projects in Florida, Amanda has successfully led multi-discipline design teams and she has extensive experience with FAA and FDOT requirements. Amanda will serve clients throughout Florida and the Southeast with their engineering needs.



Amanda Sheridan, P.E.

MJ's service offering in the Southeast also continues to grow with the addition of environmental expertise from Daniel Good, PE in our Greenville, SC office. With a bachelor's degree from Clemson University, Daniel joins MJ as an Environmental Engineer. His 5 years of experience in the environmental field includes site assessments, soil and groundwater remediation, vapor intrusion studies, and long-term monitoring. Daniel has worked with local, state, and federal government agencies, as well as industrial clients in the private sector to achieve and exceed project remediation goals. Daniel ensures that projects meet goals and quality standards efficiently, and most importantly, safely. Daniel will bolster MJ's growing environmental division in the Southeast and beyond.



Daniel Good, P.E.



AROUND THE NATION

[GA aircraft deliveries decline in 2020](#) (Source: AAAE.com)

The General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) recently reported that in 2020, aircraft deliveries reached a total of \$22.8 billion, down from \$27.8 billion in 2019.

For 2020, piston airplane deliveries declined just under 1 percent; turboprop deliveries declined 15.6 percent; and business jet deliveries declined 20.4 percent.

"As expected, in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted general aviation and stifled the industry's growth," stated GAMA President and CEO Pete Bunce. "While we continue to face headwinds globally, all signs point to strong demand for our products and services that are unfortunately being constrained by pandemic induced supply chain limitations and a vast array of disjointed barriers to air travel across national borders."



[FAA sets dates for Fiscal Year 2021 AIP applications](#)

FAA has announced the deadlines for submitting a notice of intent (NOI) and final grant application for the use of primary, cargo, and nonprimary entitlement funds that are available under AIP for fiscal year 2021.

The agency set the deadline of March 15, 2021, for an airport to provide an NOI to use fiscal year 2021 AIP entitlement funds and the deadline of May 3, 2021, for an airport to submit a final grant application to use fiscal year 2021 entitlement funds.

FAA noted that these dates are subject to adjustment based on potential future legislation. AAAE-backed coronavirus relief legislation pending in Congress includes funding to increase to 100 percent the federal share for AIP projects funded in fiscal year 2021.

[U.S. airlines record steep increase in cargo](#)

U.S. airlines carried 17 percent more cargo by weight in December than in the same month in 2019, DOT reported. The December increase was fueled by gains of 16 percent in domestic cargo and 20 percent in international cargo, the department said. For the pandemic period of May through December 2020, U.S. airlines carried 13 percent more domestic cargo and 6 percent more international cargo than during the same period in 2019.

[Passenger levels remain low...](#)

TSA screened 714,725 passengers on Feb. 23, which is 63 percent lower than the more than 1.9 million travelers the same day a year ago.

[\(See the latest TSA throughput numbers\)](#)

Business & Employment Opportunities



NOTICE OF COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITY

**Request for Proposals (21-05MLW)
AIRCRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE AND
FLIGHT SERVICES FOR
THE LEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY**

For additional details, click [HERE](#).

NOTICE OF COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITY

**Request for Proposals (21-14TLB)
AIR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT
CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR
SOUTHWEST FL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

For additional details, click [HERE](#).

**GREATER ORLANDO AVIATION AUTHORITY
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**



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after called "Owner," hereby requests sealed bids for **"BP-00045, TAXIWAYS F&G
REHABILITATION (Project), at ORLANDO EXECUTIVE AIRPORT."**

Click [HERE](#) for additional information.



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**Construction / Engineering Industry Outreach Event
for Future Design-Build Procurement**

**for
RUNWAY 8-26 RECONSTRUCTION**

at Rafael Hernandez International Airport, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico

Please click [HERE](#) for more information.

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**Position: Airports Parking Contract
Coordinator**

Salary: \$51,007 Annually

Closes: March 5, 2021

Please click [HERE](#) for more information.



Position: Engineer

Salary Range: Min. \$70,937.41 -

Mid. \$92,218.63

Closes: March 2, 2021

Please click [HERE](#) for more information.



**Position: Project Manager, Engineering
and Construction**

Salary: \$2,909.95 - \$4,655.89 Bi-weekly

Closes: March 15, 2021

Please click [HERE](#) for more
information.

Position: Senior Tradesworker, Airfield

Salary: \$20.16 - \$32.26 Hourly

Closes: March 4, 2021

Please click [HERE](#) for more
information.