

# Florida Airports Council

## AIRMAIL '24

FAC Members News, Trends & Developments Within the World of Aviation

## 2024 FAC Welcome Reception & Mid-Year General Membership Meeting Re-Cap



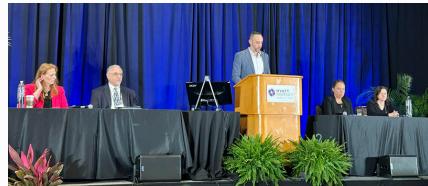
**The 2024 Welcome Reception for Bart Vernace, Mid-Year General Membership Meeting & Environmental Workshop are now in the rear-view mirror!**

More than 178 guests attended the event. It was exciting to see Bart and to meet his family and special guests including wife Maryann, son James and daughter Antonia, Bart's dear friends Rod and Mary Drury, Jack Reynolds (ADO retired) and Debra Lemke and Peter Modys formally with the LCPA.

The Friday, January 26th Mid-Year General Membership Meeting was also very well attended. FDOT Secretary Jared Purdue briefed members regarding the States FY 2024/25 transportation investments & budget proposals, and legislative recommendations & priorities. FAA Southern Region Airports Division Deputy Director Jasmine Evains and Orlando ADO's Assistant Manager Juan Brown provided an update regarding the FAA's priorities. FAC Chair Karen Feaster delivered a report regarding the FAC Future Ready project initiated by the Board of Directors in 2023.



FDOT Secretary Jared Purdue & FAC Chair, Karen Feaster



FAA/Orlando ADO Environmental Team



The FAA/FAC Joint Environmental Workshop took place Friday afternoon and was also very well attended. The workshop was hosted by FAC's Environmental Committee in partnership with the Orlando ADO management and environmental team to discuss National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementation issues in Florida and was facilitated by Eric Caplan, Sustainability & Resilience Program Director, Tampa International Airport, and Environmental Committee Chair.

**Thank You to all who participated!**

All presentations will be posted on the FAC website.

**Thank you to our generous Sponsors!**



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# AROUND THE STATE

## AOPA'S AIR SAFETY INSTITUTE RELEASES NEW REAL PILOT STORY

SOURCE: STATE AVIATION JOURNAL, NATIONAL NEWS, FLORIDA

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's Air Safety Institute (ASI) has released a new episode in its popular Real Pilot Story video series. In the latest video, Real Pilot Story: Trouble Over Paradise, Cessna Caravan pilot Ken Allen experiences piercing pain to the right side of his head during an otherwise routine flight. A quick-thinking passenger pulls Ken from the cockpit, stopping the ensuing nosedive, and radios ATC for help.

*"In this real pilot story, it's here that this extraordinary event becomes especially intriguing,"* explains AOPA Air Safety Institute Senior Director, Paul Deres. *"Air traffic controller at Fort Pierce Tower, Chip Flores, quickly and calmly instructed the passenger to level the wings and start a slow descent while Chip's team coordinated with Palm Beach Tower,"* continued Deres.

*"As luck would have it, Palm Beach air traffic controller and flight instructor Robert 'Bobby' Morgan was on duty that day and was able to guide the accidental pilot to a safe landing,"* Deres concluded. The National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) presented Chip and Bobby the 2023 President's Award for their heroic efforts.

ASI's Real Pilot Story series allows pilots to share their encounters with a dilemma so others can benefit—while comfortable on the ground—from lessons learned the hard way in flight.

[VIEW THE REAL PILOT STORY HERE](#)

## RESERVED PARKING COMING TO ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

SOURCE: FOX35ORLANDO.COM

As of Jan. 22, 2024, Orlando International Airport is now offering reserved parking spaces on the fourth floor of the Terminal C garage. With approx. 715 parking spots, visitors can now reserve a space up to a year before their scheduled flight, at a first-come, first-serve basis.

For **\$32 per day**, visitors can preemptively reserve a space on the fourth floor of the Terminal C garage to park their vehicles.

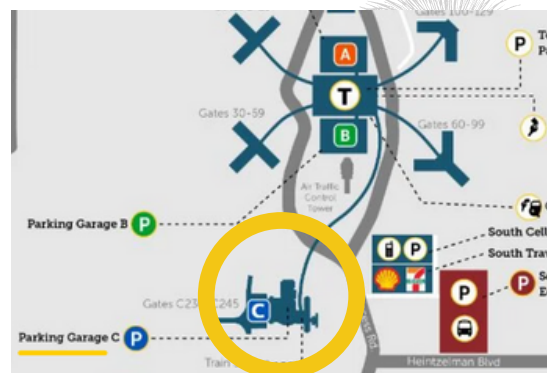
*"So now you know I have a parking spot, so then they can gauge when they leave home to get here to get to their flight. Again, that's peace of mind,"* said Kevin Thibault, Orlando International Airport's CEO.

Visitors can reserve spaces through the airport's website or the **MCO mobile app**.

*"There will be an app that customers will be able to sign on like they've done with other reserve parking at venues around the city,"* he said, *"and by using that app, you'll be able to populate your timeframes that you need for reserve parking, and it generates a code that you'll be able to scan as you enter this part of the garage."*

The airport currently has about 24,500 parking spaces, including about a thousand overflow spaces they keep open for the holidays. That's 2,000 more than last year. Visitors say the reserved spaces will surely make a real difference to travelers who don't want to leave their parking plans to chance.

Airport officials say if successful, they will eventually expand the reserved parking initiative to additional airport garages.





# WHY FLORIDA REJECTS 'CLIMATE CRISIS' ON ITS ROADWAYS, BY JARED W. PURDUE

SOURCE: DAILYWIRE.COM

Florida is home to the 14th largest economy in the world and fortunately has the means necessary to fight back against this overreach. So much so that only 25 percent of transportation funds in Florida come from the federal government, and Florida has committed over \$64 billion to infrastructure improvements over the next 5 years.



This is because of the leadership of Governor DeSantis and the commitment of the Florida Legislature in recognizing that every dollar invested in transportation infrastructure results in up to a \$4 return to Florida residents and businesses.

Recently, climate activists have scrutinized my decision for FDOT to not participate in the IJIA's "Carbon Reduction" program—a program requiring states to submit "strategies" to reduce carbon emissions throughout our nation's transportation infrastructure, specifically by tracking and reducing emissions from vehicles.

## HOW WOULD STATES BE MEASURED?



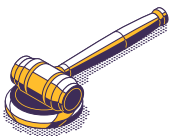
As I stated in my recent [letter](#) to USDOT, Florida will not participate in programs for which the rules are deliberately arbitrary. Oddly, this is the part most news outlets are not reporting – the "guidance" USDOT promised states for over a year related to this program was never provided. Ultimately, states were forced to put strategies on paper, submit them without proper guidance, and hope they wouldn't be retroactively punished for not meeting whatever metric USDOT dreamt up after the fact.

## GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS RULE (GHG) PROVING PROBLEMATIC



Days after these "strategies" were due to USDOT, the department issued a final Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Rule, a rule entirely separate from the carbon reduction program that requires states to set arbitrary CO2 emissions reduction, to track their progress towards said targets, and track their performance.

This rule is excessively burdensome on states, expensive to implement, and lacks guidance on what's considered successful — another clear overreach by the federal government. The intent of the GHG Emissions Rule was explicitly excluded by Congress during their consideration of the IJIA legislation. Florida has the best air quality on record and consistently commits to projects that protect our natural resources, including protecting our water quality and restoring the Everglades. We've prioritized programs to harden our infrastructure to ensure their continued resiliency for decades to come.



Thanks to the leadership of Governor DeSantis and Attorney General Ashley Moody, Florida is proud to join 21 other states in [filing a federal lawsuit](#) challenging this rule.

The Biden Administration is unilaterally injecting policies into all aspects of American life that are not supported by science or even the letter of the law, the primary objective being absolute control.

Initially, they wanted states to simply acknowledge carbon reduction as a necessary goal. This seemingly passive suggestion then transformed into an edict that states must reduce and track CO2 emissions. It is abundantly clear this Administration wants to create a regulatory environment that robs individuals of the liberty to decide what, when, & where they can drive.



The Free State of Florida values freedom, both in how you travel, what you drive, and what fuels your vehicle. Florida continuously strives to lead in infrastructure policy and development. Our state inherently values "fuel freedom" and uses its range of resources to lead the nation in transportation.

Governor DeSantis has been clear that he stands for individuals' freedoms and that government should create the framework for people to succeed, not tell them how to succeed. These policies – and especially the GHG rule – are perverse towards the actual mission of many DOTs across the country, which is to *move people and goods safely and efficiently*, not to track, report, and reduce CO2 emissions.

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Thankfully, FDOT anticipated this latest example of executive overreach and had the foresight to opt out of legitimizing it. Environmental protection and stewardship are fundamental priorities within every single one of our projects. Florida's economy is booming, its transportation networks are rapidly advancing, and all the while its natural environment continues to flourish. This is due to the leadership of Floridians, not globalist ideologues whose only familiarity with our state is from their dreams of a better life.

[Click Here for the full Article](#)

## AIR TRAVEL SURGE:

# JACKSONVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SEES RECORD 7.4 MILLION PASSENGERS

SOURCE: JACKSONVILLE.COM



In 2023, a record number of passengers passed through Jacksonville International Airport, which also surpassed its annual pre-pandemic passenger record for the first time.

According to figures released this week by the Jacksonville Aviation Authority, 7,446,084 passengers departed from or arrived at JAX in 2023, a 13% increase over the previous year and surpassing the previous record of 7,186,639 from 2019.

*"Northeast Florida is incredibly desirable as a place to visit and live, and our record airport traffic is a testament to that,"* Aviation Authority President Mark VanLoh said. *"Our team is focused on bringing the best experience to passengers, including faster security screening, more dining choices, and additional nonstop routes to the most popular destinations."*

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a steep drop in JAX passenger traffic — from the 2019 record to 2,845,711 in 2020 — but the numbers increased to 5,044,445 in 2021 and 6,574,902 in 2022, according to the Aviation Authority. Meanwhile, improvements in the "airport experience," including additional restaurants, entertainment and art works, and faster security screening are having a positive impact. More direct flights also have been added and construction is underway on a new concourse and parking garage, both of which are to open in 2025.



*"As one of the best mid-sized airports in the country, Jacksonville International Airport is an asset our community takes great pride in,"* Board Chairwoman Michelle Barnett said. *"Anyone traveling through JAX can witness the investment we are making in the airport ... Our airport is one of the key reasons why Jacksonville is a great place to visit or do business."*

### WHAT BROUGHT SO MANY PEOPLE THROUGH JAX?

Two local professors said multiple factors — some directly related to the airport itself, others based on international travel — are at play in the airport's record passenger numbers.

*"It's great news for Jacksonville. There has been steady increase"* as the pandemic eased, said Steve Adams, an aviation & history professor at Florida State College-Jacksonville. *"Coming out of COVID, it was almost like flipping a switch in leisure traffic."*

Suddenly people who had been stuck in their homes wanted to travel. The global air traffic system *"struggled to keep up,"* leading many airports, including JAX, to resume expansion plans that had been shelved during the pandemic, he said.

### ARE OTHER AIRPORTS SEEING THE SAME TREND?

Other airports also posted record passengers, Adams said, including Charlotte Douglas International Airport in North Carolina, which welcomed about 53 million passengers in 2023.

Jacksonville's 7.4 million passengers is "a fraction" of the volume at the largest U.S. airports, according to Herbert Kotzab, director of the Coggin College of Business's Crowley Center for Transportation & Logistics at the University of North Florida.

Of the top 20 busiest airports in the world in 2022, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport was first, with 93.7 million passengers, according to Canada-based Airports Council International. Miami International Airport was ranked 14th with 50.7 million and Orlando International Airport was 17th with 50.2 million, according to the council.

But Jacksonville's relatively small numbers may work in its favor with passengers, said Austrian-born Kotzab, who has traveled all over the world and worked at the University of Bremen in Germany prior to arriving at UNF in 2023. He bemoaned the long lines, crowds and stress of large airports.

[Click Here for the full Article](#)

## The 2024 Fun Run Medal has arrived!



The Virtual Fun Run Challenge event is a virtual team participation "race" open to all. Participants can encourage colleagues to donate a denomination to move their team closer to the finish line.

The team with the highest donated amount will be awarded the Virtual Fun Run Challenge Cup at next year's Annual Conference.

All participants will receive the 6th medal in the series, designed & donated by Roy Sieger, FAC Education Foundation President, Former FAC Chairman & Airport Director of Flagler Executive Airport.

*All proceeds are tax deductible and benefit the Education Foundation which provides scholarships/internships to students studying aviation in Florida.*

*For more information, please visit [www.floridaairports.org](http://www.floridaairports.org).*





# AROUND THE NATION

## A DAY OF AMERICAN AIRLINES' OPERATIONS AT DALLAS FORT WORTH

Source: SimpleFlying.com

Today, American has 1,588 scheduled movements (take-offs and landings combined) at Dallas Fort Worth, its largest hub. In comparison, Delta has 1,563 movements at Atlanta. It would be different if seats for sale were considered instead.

### UP TO 144 MOVEMENTS PER HOUR

The figure to the right breaks down American's DFW movements throughout the day. As you can see, 19:00-19:59 has the most arrivals (84), while 10:00-10:59 has the most departures (96).

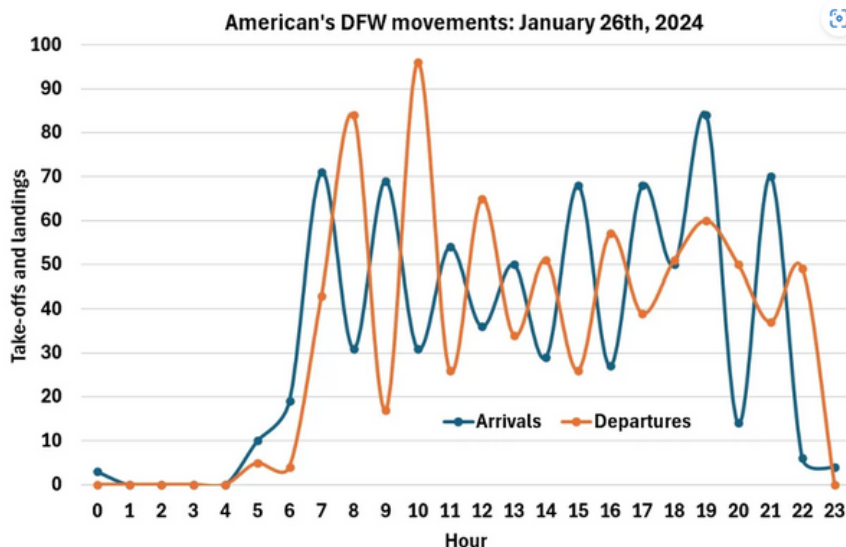
However, when combined, 19:00-19:59 is the busiest period (144). In these 59 minutes, arriving and departing aircraft will provide 20,400+ seats.

### 216 AIRPORTS SERVED ON JAN. 26TH

American has non-stop flights to/from 216 destinations today. Some 171 domestic airports in 45 states and US territories are served, with the domestic market having 1,418 movements (89% of carrier's total).

Hardly surprisingly, American's DFW network sees more airports served in Texas (22) than in any other state. It is distantly followed by California (14), Florida (14), and Colorado (nine). The carrier has 245 intra-Texas movements on the 26th, with California and Florida joint second with 130 each.

With more likelihood of sub-daily service, looking at the international market on a specific date is problematic. That said, some 45 international airports in 21 countries globally have American flights to/from DFW today.



### HOW MANY FLIGHTS?

The carrier's DFW network is broken down as follows according to the 1,588 movements. Notably, 59 routes (more than one in four) have a minimum of 10 daily arrivals and departures, illustrating the vastness of its operation.

Needless to say, if you only want to consider departures from the hub, halve the numbers. Then Austin and Los Angeles have 14 departures, Cancun eight, and London Heathrow four.

### 28 DAILY ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES:

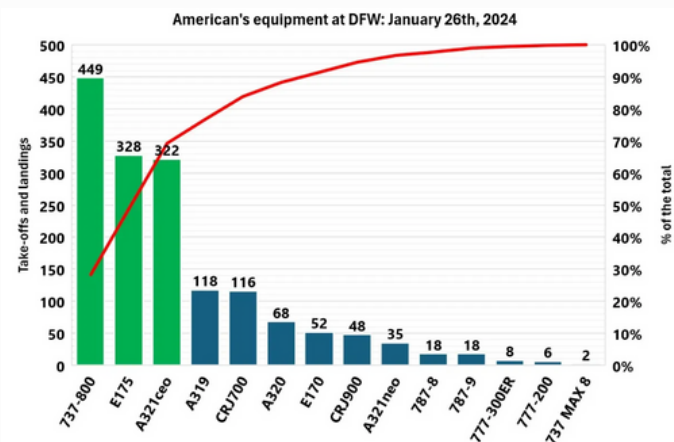
Austin & Los Angeles

26: Miami    24: Las Vegas, Phoenix, San Antonio    20: Five Routes  
18: Five Routes    16: 10 Routes (including Cancun, most-served intl. airport)  
14: Nine Routes    12: Thirteen Routes    10: Eleven Routes  
8: Twenty-Three Routes    6: Thirty-Eight Routes    4: Forty-Four Routes  
2 (i.e., one daily arrival and one daily departure): Fifty-Two Routes

### WHAT ABOUT AIRCRAFTS?

The figure to the left shows a breakdown of its equipment. About seven in 10 movements are operated by three aircraft types and variants: the 737-800, the E175, and the A321ceo.

Narrowbodies (excluding regional jets) have 994 movements (63%), regional jets have 544 (34%), and widebodies have 50 (3%). Notice the MAX 8 with just one roundtrip. AA2931 will leave DFW for Miami at 07:05, while AA399 will arrive in DFW from Miami at 20:49.



# 104.7 MILLION BECOMES NEW PASSENGER RECORD AT ATLANTA AIRPORT

Source: Aviation Week Intelligence Network



**The Georgian airport is just shy of pre-pandemic volume.**

Strong demand has propelled Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)'s passenger number to over 104 million in 2023. This marks a substantial increase in foot traffic, seeing an 11.7% increase on the previous year. Last year, the airport welcomed 104.7 million passengers, the highest post-pandemic, just shy of the 110 million welcomed in 2019.

Atlanta has seen an increase of 7.1% in passenger operations, reaching over three-quarters of a million (775,818) passenger takeoffs and landings for 2023. Even in the last month of 2023 (December), ATL saw continued growth, with an increase of 9.7% in passenger numbers and 8.52% in additional aircraft operations compared to 2022.

## Contributing to Atlanta's Economy

ATL plays a significant role in the local city economy, and Atlanta's mayor, Andre Dickens, has highlighted Atlanta's strength as an international transport hub for cargo and passenger operations.

Since 1998, the Georgian airport has continued to take the crown of one of the world's busiest airports and only surpassed in 2020, when the China Southern hub of Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport (CAN) stole the crown during the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other US airports also continue to see rising passenger numbers, including Denver International Airport (DEN), increasing by 17% in capacity, and Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, with an additional 10%.



Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport proudly announces a record-breaking 104.7 million passengers served in 2023! 🎉 Join us in celebrating this phenomenal milestone and the resilient spirit that propels ATL forward. Here's to reaching new heights together! #ATLRecord

5:30 AM · Jan 24, 2024



## What Makes Atlanta so Popular?



You may wonder why Atlanta is such a crucial part of global aviation. The metropolitan city of Atlanta is home to over 6.6 million people, and the airport is the primary hub of Delta Air Lines' vast domestic and international network as well as some other airlines. The state of Georgia is also a convenient connection point for travelers, with 80% of the US population within a two-hour flight radius.

Another critical reason the airport has won the busiest airport so often is that it does not compete with nearby airports. Atlanta stands on its own two feet, compared to New York City, which has several airports competing for passengers and flights to the city.

Growth is expected to continue in Atlanta for the foreseeable future, with multiple new services set to launch in 2024, which include Aeroméxico Connect to León/El Bajío (from March 14), and Mérida (from March 18), Alaska Airlines' direct to San Diego (May 16), Delta Air Lines to Burbank, Fresno, Oakland, Reno/Tahoe and Santa Barbara (all starting June 7), some Mexican flair to Tulum (from March 28), and a seasonal service to Switzerland, with Zurich (beginning May 31).

Frontier will also serve Minneapolis/St. Paul (from April 10) and the city of Bridges, with direct service to Pittsburgh (effective May 17). Scandinavian Airlines will commence its inaugural service to Copenhagen (starting June 17), and Canadian carrier WestJet will launch its new operation in Edmonton, Alberta (from April 29, 2024).





# TRAINING GOES ELECTRIC AT NEW VISION AVIATION

Source: AOPA.org

## FAA Grants SLSA Approval

Nonprofit aviation education and flight school organization New Vision Aviation can now provide flight training in the group's four Pipistrel Electro trainers thanks to an eight-year public-private collaboration to prove electric aircraft can be suitable for flight training.

Located at the Fresno Chandler Executive Airport, New Vision Aviation, headed by President and CEO Joseph Oldham, has provided flight training and aviation industry education to young people from disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley in California since 2018.



## New Vision Aviation

New Vision Aviation has been training students in its Cessna 150, Cessna 172, and Interstate Cadet, and now, thanks to the FAA special light sport aircraft exemption, can finally use its fleet of electric Pipistrel Alpha Electros for flight training.

Oldham is a general aviation pilot with a background in electric transportation who started the Sustainable Aviation Project (SAP), which received a million-dollar county transportation authority grant in 2016. New Vision Aviation was created to implement and complete the project.

"The idea was we would buy four Pipistrel Alpha Electros, which at the time were the first production electric airplanes in the world, and then set up a network of chargers, kind of like what is done for electric cars, at Mendota to the west, Fresno Chandler Airport right here in the center, ... and then Reedley Airport off to the east," Oldham said.

The aircraft were delivered in March of 2018, FAA regulations that do not allow for electric powerplants in light sport aircraft precluded the use of those aircraft for flight training.



## Issues With Regulations

"The problem with using these aircraft was one word in the federal code of regulations," Oldham explained. "The definition of a light sport aircraft says it has a single reciprocating engine if powered, and unfortunately, an electric motor is not a reciprocating engine, and so that one word, reciprocating, was keeping us from using these aircraft for what they were for, which was training."

Prior to issuing the exemption, the FAA told Oldham to gather data that proved the aircraft were safe. To get started, Pipistrel provided data loggers that plugged into the aircraft's onboard computer to record flight data. That data went back to Pipistrel, where it was analyzed and put into charts that showed battery and other performance parameters.

The process required Oldham to fly one of the aircraft for 100 hours to gather data, which proved difficult considering he was only able to get 40 minutes of flight time on a full charge. Eventually an engineer from another partner company suggested flying at a speed to optimize lift over drag, instead of what Pipistrel recommended for cruise speed, and eventually Oldham was able to achieve an hour+ of flight time per charge, making the 100-hour mark more attainable.

The FAA also dispatched an engineer to run specific tests with the aircraft, working in collaboration with Pipistrel to ensure the flights weren't damaging the system in any way.



"They sent one of their test pilots out and he flew with me for about three days in the airplane gathering data," Oldham said. "They published several reports internally about their experiences with the airplanes, so it was a really good, great collaboration...and that's been, I think, probably the best part of this whole thing, is just kind of meeting all the people that are interested in electric aviation...that's been the coolest thing to do."



Oldham submitted the petition in September of 2019 and in June of 2023, the FAA reached out to let him know it was working on the petition and needed him to make a few small corrections. On January 22, Oldham finally received the news that his petition for exemption had been granted.

Before New Vision Aviation can begin training with the Pipistrel fleet, the aircraft need to go through an annual inspection and be recertified by an FAA designated airworthiness representative). In the meantime, Oldham says the condition of the aircraft batteries needs to be analyzed, and some may need replacing. He hopes to have at least one of the aircrafts ready to fly in 30 days.



# MEMBER NEWS



## GREENWELL ELECTED CHAIR OF AIRPORT BOARD

On January 29, the Lee County Board of Port Commissioners elected Mike Greenwell as chair for 2024 during its first meeting held Jan. 18. Kevin Ruane was elected as vice chair. The board, composed of the five Lee County Commissioners, meets bi-monthly as the Board of Port Commissioners to set policy and direct the operations of Southwest Florida International Airport and Page Field in Fort Myers. The other commissioners include Brian Hamman, Cecil L. Pendergrass and Ray Sandelli.



**GREATER ORLANDO AVIATION AUTHORITY**

*Innovation Connecting the World*

## ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS HOME TO RECIPIENT OF 2024 'WOMEN WHO MOVE THE NATION' AWARD

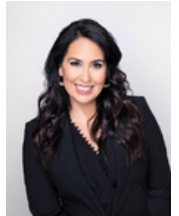
The Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) has announced the 10 women who will be honored this year for their outstanding leadership and exemplary dedication to the transportation industry, and Yovannie Rodriguez, the Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA), is included on this year's list.

The 13th Annual "Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation" (CWWMN) Awards Ceremony will be held on April 10, 2024, at the Smithsonian Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC. This highly anticipated event uplifts women across modes and sectors of transportation who have positively contributed to the industry.

*"I am beyond honored to be recognized as one of the distinguished women by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials," said Rodriguez. "This award validates not only my ongoing efforts to promote and advance transportation in Central Florida but also highlights the efforts GOAA has made as an organization to become an intermodal hub that uses technology and innovation to connect the world."*

*"We could not be more proud of Yovannie and her national recognition as a female transportation leader who moves the nation," said Kevin J. Thibault, Chief Executive Officer of GOAA. "Her dedication, professionalism and accomplishments reflect the high standards of leadership we have established as an organization and also shines a light on our efforts to be the global leader in the evolution of mobility."*

Each year, COMTO honors the nation's top transportation leaders in advance of Women's History Month. Thus far, 142 women have received the recognition. The honorees encompass a diverse spectrum of multimodal transportation, spanning both public and private sectors. These women embody excellence in their various areas of influence and affiliations. According to COMTO, the significance of their contributions to advance & fortify our nation's infrastructure is unparalleled.



For more information, or to view the full list of 2024 Honorees, please visit [www.COMTO.org](http://www.COMTO.org).



## TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CEO TO STEP DOWN

Tampa International Airport CEO Joe Lopano says he will retire. Lopano broke the news to TPA's Board the morning of Thursday, February 1. Lopano's contract was set to end in April 2025, but he will leave before that if the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority Board finds a new CEO, which they will begin searching for immediately, according to a TPA spokesperson.

Lopano has had a long run as TPA CEO, starting on Jan. 1, 2011. He was appointed after serving 14 years at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, where he rose to executive vice president of marketing and terminal management. Lopano saw the airport through challenging times, including the pandemic and TPA's largest renovation. And the airport boomed under Lopano, just the third TPA CEO since 1965. It just finished the past fiscal year with record revenues — \$381 million for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2023. And it had record passenger numbers, projecting an even stronger performance in 2024, with 25.2 million passengers estimated, airport officials say. TPA often won major rankings, including being named the No. 1 large airport in customer satisfaction by J.D. Power in 2022 and 2023.

Additionally, Lopano and the airport team worked to add international and nonstop domestic destinations. Under Lopano, airport officials say, TPA and the Aviation Authority implemented a successful incentive program that attracted new international routes such as Edelweiss Air to Zurich; Copa Airlines to Panama City; Lufthansa to Frankfurt, Germany; and Virgin Atlantic to London Heathrow.

In total, Lopano has 40 years in the aviation field, having also worked in various top marketing roles at Lufthansa, British West Indies Airlines and Continental Airlines. Lopano serves on the boards of the Tampa Bay Economic Development Council, where he is the 2024 chairperson, and the Hillsborough County Transportation Planning Organization, according to his airport bio. Nationally, he serves on the Airports Council International World Governing Board.





*Save  
the date*



FLORIDA AIRPORTS COUNCIL

# 55TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

AUGUST 11 - 14, 2024

JW MARRIOTT TURNBERRY MIAMI RESORT & SPA  
1999 W COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE, AVENTURA, FLORIDA, 33180

HOSTED BY

MIAMI-DADE AVIATION  
DEPARTMENT

MONROE COUNTY/KEY WEST  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DETAILS REGARDING REGISTRATION,  
EXHIBITOR PACKAGES, ON-SITE EVENTS & MORE COMING 2024

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## 2024

JANUARY 09 -  
MARCH 8, 2024

### FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

[CLICK HERE TO VISIT THE FLORIDA SUNSHINE CHANNEL NETWORK & VIEW LIVE-STREAMED SESSIONS](#)

FEBRUARY 13 -  
FEBRUARY 29, 2024

### CFASPP ROUND 24-1

Various Locations - [CLICK HERE FOR MEETING CALENDAR & SPECIFICS](#)

MARCH 12 -  
MARCH 13, 2024

### WASHINGTON DC LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN

[Hilton Washington DC National Mall The Wharf](#)  
480 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20024 | (202) 484-1000  
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN - [CLICK HERE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION](#)

MARCH 19 -  
MARCH 20, 2024

### FAPA AVIATION INDUSTRY SPRING COURSE

FDOT Manatee Operations Center | 14000 East SR64, Bradenton, FL 34212  
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

AUGUST 11 -  
AUGUST 14, 2024

### FAC 55TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION

JW Marriott Turnberry Miami Resort & Spa

Please email [lisa@floridairports.org](mailto:lisa@floridairports.org) & [info@floridairports.org](mailto:info@floridairports.org) with questions or calendar updates, or visit [www.floridairports.org](http://www.floridairports.org) for details.

**DON'T  
MISS  
OUT!**

## THE 2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PERIOD IS OPEN!



FAC Education Foundation President Roy Sieger, the Education Committee and FAC Staff are pleased to announce the opening of the 2024 Scholarship Application period:

**Monday, January 15 - Monday, February 12, 2024**

### Eligibility Requirements:

The 2024 FAC Education Foundation Scholarship is available for any student that meets or exceeds the following application criteria:

- Actively enrolled students pursuing a degree or concentration in aviation from one of the member institutions. (Listed below)
- Currently living in the State of Florida.
- Has achieved at least sophomore standing with a member institution.
- Will have at least one semester of coursework remaining after May 2024.
- Has a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 or higher.

### Member Institutions:

- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, (Daytona Beach Campus)
- Everglades University
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Lynn University
- Polk State College
- University of South Florida

### Application Deadline:

**Monday, February 12, 2024**

[Click here for the full, official Application](#)





# FLORIDA AIRPORTS ARE A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND ONE OF FLORIDA'S ECONOMIC ENGINES

Florida's airports are an economic engine - the aviation industry generates \$336 billion in economic activity and supports 1.4 million jobs. To keep achieving great heights and meeting the needs of tomorrow's business environment, Florida's airports must continue to be developed, improved, and expanded.



## LET'S KEEP FLORIDA'S AIRPORTS SOARING

As the statewide voice for aviation, the Florida Airports Council looks forward to serving as a strategic partner with state leaders as we navigate these challenges and advocate for issues that matter to Florida's airports and the passengers they serve.

*Together, we can continue to advance Florida's all-important travel sector and strengthen the state's economy.*

## CONTACT US!



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