Airports and the Travel and Hospitality Industry are working together to create and follow best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are fortunate to work with organizations such as Airports Council International, Florida Airports Council, US Travel Association, amongst others to serve our traveling public to the best of our abilities. From our first flight cancellation on March 17th, we continue implementing procedures to keep you safe.

Please stay vigilant – wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, practice physical distancing when you are at the airport. Working together we can keep each other and our families safe by following the CDC/DOH recommended guidelines.

Airports are essential businesses and we have kept our doors open. We are grateful to all the workers who continued to keep the airport running smoothly. Unfortunately, the airport and its partners have been greatly impacted. We have fared better than many other airports with our sunshine calling visitors to return to St. Pete-Clearwater and we hope this continues with health and safety measures in place.

PIE received $8.7 million in CARES Act funding which will be used for payroll costs to keep our employees serving you. Projects that were underway continue and we are very pleased to see our landside and parking lot project nearing completion. We are evaluating future projects to determine the most responsible financial decision to serve our community. As the economy rebuilds, we will progress as well. It was our plan to hold a Renovation Celebration in April to celebrate the completion of projects and we look forward to the day we can again enjoy community gatherings at PIE.

Onward and upward... Your Airport Director, Tom Jewsbury

Air Service News

Allegiant is operating to its 51 destinations with 159 flights operating this holiday week, only 14% less than in 2019.

Sun Country Airlines will resume Gulfport/Biloxi service to Beau Rivage Resort & Casino on July 19th.

Sunwing Airlines service to/from Canada ended early this year due to COVID-19. Seasonal service to Halifax is expected to resume in February.

COVID-19 Action Plan

We continue to update our plan and actions based on best practices and Pinellas County directives. On June 24th, face coverings were required in the terminal. Please do your part to stop the spread and keep others safe. Signage is throughout the terminal and free mask dispensers are at every entrance. We’ve got you covered, well at least your nose and mouth! Allegiant is also requiring face coverings in flight beginning July 2nd.

We have physical distancing markers and signage, and continue to look for solutions as travel increases and distancing becomes more challenging. Hand sanitization stations are plentiful. When we reopened our Economy Lot due to increased travel demand, sanitization and cleaning protocols were implemented on shuttles. Shuttles drivers are also limiting capacity and masks are required to board. Our full PIE COVID-19 Action Plan is posted on our website at www.fly2pie.com
AIRPORT PROJECTS AND OPERATIONS

PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Runway 18-36 Rehabilitation

Runway 18-36 Rehabilitation – This project started in early 2020 to rehabilitate the asphalt pavement for our primary runway, Runway 18-36. Phase 5 of the project will begin in early July which will shift all aircraft operations to the crosswind runway, Runway 4-22. Aircraft will be operating on Runway 4-22 until mid-November at which time the entire length of Runway 18-36 (9730') will be available. The project is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2021.

Airport Landside and Parking Lot Improvements

Short-Term, Long-Term, Rental Car, and Employee Parking lots are complete and operational. Short-Term Parking Lot opened June 27th. The total number of spaces available within walking distance to the terminal building will be 1118. Our Economy lots (Key Lime and Strawberry) have 1800 spaces. The project will be completed in late-July 2020.

Airport Master Plan

The Airport Master Plan (AMP) is scheduled to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners in a workshop in July. The AMP provides the airport with short, mid and long-range planning for airport development. More information is available on the Airport Master Plan website www.piemasterplan.com

PROJECTS COMING SOON

PIE projects for the upcoming fiscal year which begins October 1st include:

Airfield electrical vault relocation – The electrical vault will be relocated from adjacent to Ticketing A In-line Baggage System to an area between Signature Flight Support and National Aviation Academy. The project cost is $5 million.

Airport Terminal service elevator design and construction - A new service elevator for use by concessionaires will be installed at the terminal. The project cost is approximately $400,000.

Chiller - A new 350-ton chiller to meet the terminal HVAC demands will be installed. This project will cost approximately $700,000.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION FACILITY

PIE’s “Customs" Facility is now fully updated to current standards with Automated Passport Control and all required facility upgrades. The $8.2 million project was completed with $3.2 million in FAA, $800,000 FDOT, and $4.2 million airport funding.
AIRPORT OPERATIONS

Noise Affairs Update

For information, contact the Noise Affairs Office at (727) 453-7877 or email airportnoise@fly2pie.com. Airport Noise Abatement Task Force Meetings are held quarterly to discuss noise affairs at PIE. Meetings are held at 3:00 p.m. The next 2020 meeting dates are July 29 and October 21.

PIE is currently experiencing later flight arrivals. Allegiant is taking extra precautions on sanitizing their aircraft. Between each flight, extra cleaning protocols are adding time to the turnaround of aircraft. Because of these new measures, flights are arriving later, up until 11:45 p.m.

Economy Lot Reopens

The airport reopened its Key Lime Economy Lot due to increased travel demands. The Economy Lots were closed after reduction in travel due to COVID-19. Our free shuttle to/from the lot includes new procedures. Two shuttles operate with 50% capacity to allow for social distancing, masks are provided and required, and hand sanitizer is provided. The shuttle operates two hours prior to the first flight and one hour after the last arrival.

Badging Office Updates

Individuals are required to wear a mask and have an appointment to enter the office. For full details on the Badging Office protocols, please visit https://www.fly2pie.com/docs/default-source/airport-operations/

Airport Emergency Full Scale Drill Rescheduled

Due to COVID-19 the Airport Emergency Table top was rescheduled to August 4th as a WebEx meeting. The mass casualty drill originally planned in April is now scheduled for August 18th and modifications to conduct a safe drill will be implemented. The Federal Aviation Administration requires a full-scale drill every three years to evaluate the airport’s emergency response preparedness.

Metroplex

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) hosted virtual public workshops for the Tampa Bay Area on June 4th and 5th to review NextGen, the FAA modernization of the National Airspace System for improving airspace flight procedures around the country. Information on Metroplex is available at http://metroplexenvironmental.com/

It is important to note that the proposed flight procedure changes do not have any impact on the Airport’s Noise Abatement Program or instrument approaches. However, flight patterns/routes after the Noise Abatement designated departure/arrival could impact our communities when aircraft are flying at a 5,000 to 10,000 feet altitude.

Congratulations and Welcome Aboard!

Jim Fletcher was promoted to Airport Security Coordinator and Dawn Ferrante changed from part-time to full-time Administrative Support Specialist in Operations. Jody Stambaugh was promoted to a Craftworker in Airport Facilities. Jocelyn Billington has worked as a temporary employee for years with the Facilities Department. In December, Jocelyn was hired as a full-time Administrative Support Specialist shared by Facilities and Airport Properties.

Additional new hires with the Facilities Department since December include John De Patie, Craftworker; Christian Denis, Electrician; Stephen Poleno, Craftworker. Leon Hammond joined ARFF as an Airport Firefighter/EMT.

New Allegiant Operations and Services Facility scheduled opening July 15th

Allegiant will complete its move to its newly constructed facility on the west side of the Terminal (former UPS cargo site) in mid July. This facility will consolidate operations at several buildings Allegiant leased from PIE. The “Annex” building immediately at the southeast corner of the Terminal will be demolished for future development, as well as the building formerly known as “Flight Shops” across the street from National Aviation Academy.
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Community Education Programs  The airport provides presentations and tours to schools, scouts, and leadership/civic groups. For more info, see our website: fly2pie.com/about-pie/airport-tours

Airport Volunteer Ambassadors and PIE Pups

Volunteer Ambassador Cheryl returned in June to assist passengers. Thank you Volunteers!

Therapy Dog Program Welcome Back!

We are pleased to have several volunteers return after almost three months of placing our volunteer program on hold. With extra precautions in place, Airport Ambassadors at the Visitor Info Booth and PIE PUPS Therapy Dogs are back serving our passengers. We require volunteers to wear a face covering, put up plexi-shields at the booth and provide masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and sanitizing and cleaning supplies.

Our PIE PUPS are back too, with adorable dogs to keep you company while you wait for your flight. They look forward to visits from passengers wearing face covers.

Lee and Maxx and John and Mickey report to duty.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Workplace Mentoring Program

Congratulations Clearwater High School (CHS) Class of 2020! PIE completed its second two-year workplace mentoring program with BBBS and CHS in May. The airport celebrated the High School Senior “Littles” via a virtual celebration. We wish all the Seniors a successful and rewarding future!

Pictured at right: Students tour the airport when they began the program as Juniors in 2018.

Veterans Honor Flights

2020 Honor Flights Canceled – The National Honor Flight Office canceled all Honor Flights for 2020. PIE had four dates planned for Honor Flights in 2020 and hopes to host “Welcome Home Receptions” again in 2021. To all our Veterans, thank you and we look forward to hosting you again. For more information, visit Honorflightwcf.org.

Share Your Airport Experience/ STAR Customer Service Program

PIE recognizes and rewards employees and volunteers with exceptional customer service engagement. The public or co-workers can share stories on our website at https://www.fly2pie.com/about-pie/customer-service, email star@fly2pie.com or post a Facebook review. We also want to know how we can improve or when you receive great service, so please let us know with our one-stop for all your customer service experience stories.

Lee and Maxx and John and Mickey report to duty.

We look forward to our customers’ comments and ideas.
Please email us at info@fly2pie.com, tweet @iflypie, or find us on facebook.com/Fly2PIE

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