FLY2PIE NEWS
Fall 2005

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Highlights from the Director

The catastrophic impacts of Hurricane Katrina on our Gulf Coast neighbors certainly weigh heavily on our minds. As a nation and locally, there has been an outpouring of support for the hurricane relief effort. The US Coast Guard stationed at PIE is playing a vital role in search and rescue efforts, as well as delivering much needed supplies. One of our carriers, Hooter’s Air, is delivering donated supplies and flying evacuee families out to their base in Myrtle Beach. Our staff has offered assistance to impacted airports. Together, we hope to make a difference.

Over this past summer, we completed our terminal “makeover” project introducing a bright new leisure look to all terminal ticketing and gate areas. We launched a new website design with user friendly menus and easy access to airlines & destination information, and unveiled PIE’s “Your Gateway to Tampa Bay” marketing campaign.

Construction of our runway extension project begins in October. Its completion will provide the necessary runway length to accommodate non-stop transatlantic flights to the UK and Germany. Other important projects are moving forward in the fall, including the installation of a new security system and the terminal design process with recommendations for modest short-term terminal improvements. These projects were made possible by the award of the largest FAA grant in the Airport’s history and the largest this year in Florida. The $14 million plus grant will fund 95% of project costs.

As we move forward with these plans, we continue to aggressively pursue noise abatement and mitigation strategies. With the recent completion of the first phase of our Airspace Study, we have definitive recommendations from our consultant, Jeppessen-DataPlan to begin Phase II, which involves negotiations with the FAA about alternative arrival and departure procedures.

USA 3000 Airlines, our largest airline, continues to have great success in our market with a 54% increase over last year’s passenger traffic. With new routes from CanJet Airlines to Moncton and St. John’s via Toronto and Halifax, and four new non-stops from Hooter’s Air to Scranton, PA, Gary, IN, Columbus, OH, and Rockford, IL, PIE will soon be serving over 20 destinations.

Until the next time,
Noah Lagos, A.A.E.

Airline Service News

Beginning October 28th, Hooters Air plans to begin non-stop service between PIE and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Intl Airport, Gary/Chicago Intl Airport, Rickenbacker/Columbus Intl Airport, and Rockford/Chicago Intl Airport. To launch the new service, Hooters Air will offer introductory sale fares starting at $79 each way for a limited number of seats on each flight. Reservations can be made at www.hootersair.com or call 1-888-FLY-HOOT.

CanJet Airlines
CanJet Airlines was recently selected one of Canada’s Top 50 Best Managed Companies for the second year running. Seasonal service to Halifax, St. John’s, Moncton, and Toronto begins in November. Customers can book on-line at www.canjet.com or call 1-800-809-7777.
**AIRPORT PLANNING STUDIES & PROJECTS**

The latest updates regarding ongoing planning studies and projects at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport.

**Runway Extension** – The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) awarded the runway extension project to Largo contractor, R. E. Purcell for $11,622,605 on September 6th. The extension provides the needed length for takeoff and landing of non-stop transatlantic, international flights and brings the main runway’s safety areas into compliance with current Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) regulations.

Beginning in the Fall, construction activity will be located on Stoneybrook Drive and Airco Golf Course. Stoneybrook Drive will serve as a staging area and the road will be rebuilt. The driving range at Airco will be permanently closed and the parking lot will become smaller.

The project is expected to be completed by Summer 2006. The runway will have a total length of 9,730 feet.

**Environmental Assessment** – The Environmental Assessment project was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on September 6th. The goal of the project is to use the airfield at its most efficient capacity while minimizing the environmental impacts to the community. The project kicks off in January 2006 and its first task will be to assess the capacity constraints of the Airport’s runways. Subsequent tasks include evaluating alternatives to existing layout of the general aviation runway and taxiways. The process will include small group public meetings beginning in the Fall of 2006, a public workshop and a public hearing.

**Terminal Design** – The LPA Group was selected by the BCC to prepare new concepts and designs for the Airport’s terminal with a primary focus on long-range development needs. The initial phase will consist of an evaluation of the terminal facility and an analysis of conceptual plans for future terminal development. When a preferred terminal concept is identified, a layout will be developed to discern infrastructure modification requirements and include construction cost estimates and recommended construction phasing. Public workshops for the BCC and community will be part of the process.

A short-term element of the project includes the possible installation of loading bridges at some or all of the terminal gates. Pay-as-you-go (no long-term debt) funding by grants, passenger facility charges, and Airport revenues would be utilized.

**Security Improvements** – The BCC awarded the Security Enhancement Project to Johnson Controls for $1,293,300. This project will enhance the existing security systems at the Airport Terminal, including the installation of a new access control system, closed circuit television cameras, wireless communication with real time streaming video of alarms, installation of a new fiber optic transmission system and installation of an interactive security training workstation.

**REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT** - The latest on projects at the Airport and surrounding Airport-owned real estate.

**Highwoods Lease** - Pinellas County signed a 50-year ground lease with Highwoods/Florida Holdings, L.P. for the commercial redevelopment of the 9.5-acre “Turtle Club” site adjacent to Bayside Bridge. The Limited Partnership is the Florida development arm for its parent company, Highwoods Properties, which was founded in 1978 and is one of the nation’s largest, self-administered (Lease, Manage & Develop In-house) real estate investment trusts. Highwoods is proposing to develop an 114,000 sq. ft. corporate office complex on the site.

**T-Hangers** - The aviation design firm of MEA Group, Inc. of Sarasota, Florida was selected as our T-Hangar Development consultant. The new hangars may be located in the northeast corner of the Airport adjacent to an existing T-Hangar development. Designed to house single-engine and small twin-engine aircraft, the T-Hangars are expected to be completed in 2007. Approximately 75 will be built and prospective tenants may contact Bob Humberstone at (727) 453-7820 for more information.

**Airport welcomes United Cab** - United Cab recently joined Yellow Cab as taxicab service providers at the Airport. For reservations, please call United Cab @ (727) 535-0000.
NOISE AFFAIRS UPDATE

For questions about PIE’s Noise Abatement and Mitigation Program, contact Jason Schwartz in the Office of Noise Affairs, (727) 453-7880 or jschwart@co.pinellas.fl.us.

Airspace & Noise Studies - On August 10th, the Phase I results of Jeppesen’s Airspace Study were presented to the Aircraft Noise Abatement Task Force (NATF) for review and comment. The Phase I report contains proposed approach and departure procedures that may offer noise relief to neighboring communities affected by aircraft operations on Runway 17L-35R. The Airport and NATF directed Jeppesen to pursue their recommendations with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for potential implementation. Phase II of the Airspace Study will include coordination and review by the FAA Regional Office and other agencies required to approve the procedures. The final design and implementation phase will occur during Phase III of the study.

PIE’s Fly Friendly Program

Without federal mandates, reducing aircraft noise is a voluntary partnership between the Airport and general aviation community. Its success depends on the Airport’s outreach and cooperative efforts of pilots. Film Actor and Pilot John Travolta, a customer of St. Pete-Clearwater Int’l Airport, is an excellent example of how the General Aviation Fly Friendly Program works. On a recent visit, the flight crew of Travolta’s Boeing 707 jet contacted the air traffic control tower requesting use of the North Bay Visual Approach (a “fly friendly” noise abatement procedure) in order to reduce their noise impact to the community during a late night arrival. PIE’s Fly Friendly Program recognizes the first step to action is awareness.

Airport’s Noise Affairs Webpage

www.fly2pie.com/noise

For updates and information on Noise Affairs, including meeting minutes for the Noise Abatement Task Force, visit this section of the airport website. A new subscribe feature delivers you automatic email notification when the noise homepage is updated.

Noise Abatement Task Force Schedule

All meetings are held bimonthly on a Wednesday at 3:00 PM in the Airport Conference Room and are open to the public.

Upcoming 2005 Meetings

September 28
November 30

Airport Operations

The FAA recently conducted an Annual Certification Inspection of the Airport. The two day inspection included areas such as safety related deficiencies in pavement, lighting, wildlife hazards, ground vehicle operations, and rescue firefighting. The Airport received a “no discrepancies” report and all areas were designated compliant with safety regulations.

The Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc., Suncoast Chapter, held their August training meeting at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater Int’l Airport. The “puppy raisers” socialize and train the puppies to become guide dogs for blind men and women in order to achieve safe and independent travel.
Stellar Partners, our retail concessionaire, extended their lease option to operate the existing gift store, newsstand, and duty free shop for an additional five years. “We are happy to continue what has been a long and successful partnership with the Airport.” states Stellar Owner, Susan Stackhouse.

The Airport received the largest grant in its history from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The FAA grant of $14,273,418 was also the largest grant awarded to an airport in Florida for the fiscal year 2004/05. The grant application approved by the Pinellas County BCC in June, designated four critical projects - the Runway Extension, Security Enhancement, Terminal Conceptual Planning and Design, and Terminal Roof Rehabilitation. The FAA awarded the Airport Entitlement and Discretionary grants that fund 95% of the project costs. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) contributes an additional 2.5% and the Airport the remaining 2.5%.

Community Relations - PIE is seeking volunteers to assist our passengers in our Visitor Information Booth. If you enjoy welcoming and providing information to tourists, you can help get their visit to Pinellas County off to a great start! For more information, contact Michele Routh at (727) 453-7879 or email - mrouth@co.pinellas.fl.us

Florida Airports Council (FAC) News

Noah Lagos, A.A.E., Airport Director, was recently appointed to the Executive Board of FAC as Secretary-Treasurer beginning October 1, 2005. With the customary progression of officers at FAC, Lagos will serve as FAC’s President in two years. FAC is an association of publicly-owned and operated airports and airport professionals. It is the largest airport-specific organization in Florida and is considered by industry leaders to be the premier state airport organization in the nation.

The St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport along with Tampa International Airport recently co-hosted FAC’s Annual Conference in July 2005. FAC’s Annual Conference is the largest and most successful statewide airport event in the country with more than 700 industry professionals attending with an estimated $754,000 economic impact on the Tampa Bay area.

Pinellas County BCC Chairman John Morroni discusses airport operations during a tour of PIE’s airfield with the Gateway Chamber of Commerce. The annual tour followed a luncheon presentation by Airport Director Noah Lagos.