St. Petersburg-Clearwater Int’l Airport enjoyed a stellar 2007! Our passenger traffic nearly doubled and the number of non-stop destinations served increased to 29! Allegiant Air now serves 15 destinations and 50% of our passengers. USA3000 with service to 7 major cities and Sun Country to Minneapolis/St. Paul continue to grow and prosper. Canadians are increasing their visits and flying on Sunwing and Transat Holidays. As you can see, the flying public is enjoying their customer experience at our “Gateway to Tampa Bay.”

My crystal ball for 2008 is a little cloudy. Since the economy is not on firm footing and the cost of oil has skyrocketed, air travel may be affected nationally. Travel to our leisure destination may decline as family’s discretionary income shrinks. So far, however, there is no indication that this is taking place. We have more flights and passengers than we did this time last year.

In early February, I visited with the Allegiant CEO and President, Maury Gallagher and his corporate staff. They raved about the strength of our destination, the wonderful customer experience, and plans for more flights by year’s end. Bookings are strong with USA 3000 and our other domestic and Canadian carriers. In 2008, we hope to see continued increases in passengers and destinations. As we strive to provide expanded customer services, our Visitor Information program now has over 20 new volunteers greeting and assisting passengers 7 days a week. This March, we will conduct a passenger survey to find information about our travelers, their customer experience, and how we can improve. Our terminal renovation project has begun (please see page 2 for a full report). And at the conclusion of this terminal renovation project phase, we intend to conduct another passenger survey to try to assess what impacts the terminal project had on the customer experience.

As St. Petersburg-Clearwater Int’l Airport enjoys a growing commercial passenger service, it is important to note our thriving general aviation component as well. In fact, general aviation accounts for 85% of all the takeoffs and landings at PIE. Two Fixed Based Operators operate at PIE and we are pleased to highlight Signature Flight Support on page 4 as our Fly2PIE’s featured tenant.

Hope you and yours had a great holiday season and for 2008, there is more to come... Noah Lagos, A.A.E., Airport Director

PIE welcomed Air Force One and the President during a visit to Pinellas County this past Fall. Airport Director Noah Lagos and Operations Manager Lloyd Tillmann were thrilled to be given a tour inside by the crew.
Terminal Renovation Project

The Terminal Renovation Project is underway! Our new Airport Engineer, John Holt, joined the airport staff last fall and has been working closely with the project’s architectural firm, the LPA Group. The construction cost is estimated at about $10 million dollars. The airport’s cost is only about 2.5 cents on the dollar, because 97.5% of the project is funded through Federal Aviation Administration and Florida Department of Transportation grants. Both funding agencies use proceeds from aviation related taxes such as fuel sales, ticket taxes, etc to pay for eligible grant projects like the terminal project. However, there are no federal income tax dollars flowing to support our project.

The general construction contract for the Terminal Renovation was recently awarded to Ajax Building Corporation and construction has just begun. Four other bid packages will be let for items such as loading bridges, carpeting/tile, wall covering, and new seating. Renovations will take between 18-24 months.

The project is divided into several areas of construction activity starting with the demolition of our former Newsstand in the Ticketing A area in order to construct new public restrooms. Stellar Partners has incorporated news, magazines, and other newsstand items into their newly remodeled Gift Shop. Ticketing A Restrooms will be closed towards the end of February and for a temporary period of time, public restroom facilities have been constructed at the far east end of the terminal building. Other construction will take place that will downsize the second floor restaurant for a couple of months, but it will be open with a full service menu. During certain segments of this construction, you will have to use our interior corridor walkway to get from place to place due to construction activities within the main terminal.

The next major phase is the renovation of Ticketing A’s security and gate areas. Gates 2-6 will be completely remodeled and two passenger loading bridges will be added. The seating capacity will be greatly increased. A new food and beverage area will be constructed. The most visually striking element of this phase of the terminal project is a signature piece of art to be located just inside the main entrance to the terminal building. After an international search conducted by the Pinellas County Cultural Affairs Department, Guy Kemper has been commissioned to design a 45 foot long piece of glass art. This unique artwork will be located just inside of the main entrance to the terminal and be integrated into a wall that separates the public from the passenger security area and Gates 2-6.

Ticketing B will also undergo a major renovation. It will be completely demolished and rebuilt with 7 ticket counters and a new security checkpoint area. A new in-line bag system will be installed for faster security screening of checked baggage by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

Many of you may not know that the terminal building dates back to 1955 and has been build in 12 phases over the past 50 years. One of the project’s biggest challenges is to achieve a themed interior design to visually connect the interior of the first floor of the terminal building. Interior designer, Kelly Taaffe Noto has created a new look, with vibrant colors that greet visitors with a uniquely Florida feeling. The color palette for the carpet, tile, and wall coverings includes the sand of the beach, ocean blue, and sea green. Wait til you see it!

We realize that there will be some minor inconveniences during this project. Our contractors and staff are making every effort to focus on impacts to customer service. Please bear with us as we transform a wonderful asset to our community into a true gem. If you have any questions of concerns about the project, please call our main airport number at 727-453-7800, and we will be happy to assist you.
AIRPORT OPERATIONS & NOISE AFFAIRS UPDATE

For questions about PIE’s Noise Abatement and Mitigation Program, contact the Office of Noise Affairs, (727)453-7880 or airportnoise@pinellascounty.org.

How can pilots minimize their noise impact on local communities? In densely populated Pinellas County, there are many residential neighborhoods in close proximity to its three airports. Because of this, the St. Petersburg-Clearwater Int’l Airport encourages pilots to take steps to reduce their noise exposure and to fly considerately.

As part of an ongoing effort, our Office of Noise Affairs created a Fly Friendly Program to educate pilots. Educational pamphlets were distributed to all airports in Pinellas County and also to Fixed Based Operators and flight schools located at PIE. These pamphlets feature a map of residential areas near the airport and have general information on flying techniques that reduce noise. Another important feature highlighted in these brochures is our Voluntary Quiet Window, which is between 11 PM and 6 AM daily. Although the Airport does not have a curfew, we encourage pilots to avoid flying overnight unless operationally necessary. Most pilots overwhelmingly adhere to this request and there is a substantial reduction in aircraft activity during the overnight hours. 2007 was a great year for noise abatement compliance by the general aviation community at PIE.

The Office of Noise Affairs has also developed a pilot education presentation for General Aviation and Helicopter pilots. These presentations are about an hour in length and feature a noise abatement video from either the Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association or Helicopter Association International. It is a good opportunity for pilots to learn about the noise concerns of Pinellas County residents and to discover ways they can be a good neighbor. If a flight school, aviation club or other association would like for us to present the Fly Friendly Program, please contact Jon Colette at 727-453-7880 or at jcollette@pinellascounty.org. The program is free of charge and can be held at the Airport or your meeting site.

If you have concerns or complaints about aircraft noise in Pinellas County, please contact the Noise Hotline at 727-453-7877 or visit our website at www.fly2pie.com/noise. The website features a flight tracking option, frequently asked questions about aircraft noise, and an automated complaint form for reporting noise incidents to the Airport.

Noise Abatement Task Force Schedule

All meetings are held quarterly in the Airport Conference Room 234 and are open to the public. For updates and information on Noise Affairs, including meeting minutes for the Noise Abatement Task Force, visit www.fly2pie.com/noise.

2008 Meetings—@ 3:00 PM—January 23, April 23, July 23, October 22

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

The latest on projects at the airport and surrounding airport-owned real estate. For more information, contact Properties Director Bob Humberstone at 727-453-7820.

Ground Breaking at St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport for New Airside Development

On January 25, 2008, Corporate Eagle Management Services Inc. broke ground with a ceremony to kickoff the construction of their new regional aviation facility. Corporate Eagle operates a jet charter and fractional ownership business. The new aviation facility is being built on 5.6 acres and will include a 30,000 square foot aircraft hangar.

Corporate Eagle Management Services Inc. was selected through a Request for Negotiation (RFN) process by St. Petersburg-Clearwater Int’l Airport and Pinellas County Economic Development to lease the 5.6 acre site that will be home to their new Florida facility. Corporate Eagle Management Services Inc. is currently based in Michigan at the Oakland County International Airport. Corporate Eagle plans to begin operations at PIE in Spring 2008.
PIE’S FEATURED TENANT—SIGNATURE FLIGHT SUPPORT

Signature Flight Support is a worldwide Fixed Base Operator and distribution network for business aviation services. At PIE, Signature has 105 employees, and during the peak winter seasons handles over 200 commercial aviation flights per month, including passenger services, ramp/ground handling, and fueling operations. Signature supplies hangar/office leasing for general aviation clients and recently, took over the Air 1 facility at PIE. Signature operates at 75 airports worldwide and we are pleased to host their services at PIE.

AIRPORT COMMUNITY RELATIONS

PIE welcomes schools, community and youth groups for airport tours. Contact: Michele Routh at 727-453-7879 or email mrouth@pinellascounty.org for more information.

CUSTOMER COMMENTS - The airport is pleased to receive feedback from our customers. The airport businesses all work together to make your travel experience as easy and friendly as possible. If you have feedback, please email us info@fly2pie.com

One of our own airport staff members, Receptionist Debbie Griner, is well known for her above and beyond service to passengers. This past holiday season she received a card from Linda G. saying, “… I will never be able to repay your generosity and kindness in rescuing my mother from Baggage Claim and making her feel so special while waiting for my arrival… what you did for my family will never be forgotten.” We thank Debbie for bringing these qualities to the airport and serving our customers with such kindness and compassion. Debbie is our friendly voice that answers your questions at the airport, (727) 453-7800.

Students from Bayside High School (top left) enjoyed an airfield tour and teachers sent their thanks for a “successful field trip”, which included visits to UPS and the Airport Fire Division. Working on their aviation merit badge, Boy Scout Troop 219 (lower left) was treated to a visit at the Air Traffic Control Tower. Sutherland Elementary School 3rd Grade Students (right) enjoyed their visit boarding an Allegiant aircraft and meeting with the crew. Thanks to all who help our community education program shine!