HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our busy summer season has come to a close with excellent year to date passenger activity, just down 3% from a year ago. Our August numbers were, in fact, better than last August. This is quite an achievement considering many airports are facing a double digit decline in airline service.

Typically, early fall reflects a seasonal reduction in flights and passenger activity. This short term downturn allows us to accelerate our terminal project with minimal impact to the traveling public. Phase I of our renovation will be complete in time for the Thanksgiving holiday and introduce our initial transformation to a tropical theme. Not only will there be a new ambience, but new restaurants, seating, and an enlarged passenger gate area.

The airport will also install its first loading bridges, the tunnel like structures that keep you dry in the rain. There will also be improvements that you won’t see, but will save us maintenance and utility costs, such as the installation of the airport’s first “chiller plant”, a large central air conditioning system that will replace almost 65 home like units. Keeping costs low is a key to maintaining existing air service and attracting new airline service when the economy improves.

We were very fortunate to receive about $6,000,000 of stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). We are creating jobs and using the money for Phase II of our terminal renovation. The work has just started. A cement truck is out front pouring a new sidewalk, replacing the cracked, worn one. Soon, work will begin on doors, windows, elevators, new ticket counters and baggage conveyors, as well as continuing the tropical theming of the airport.

And more good news, this month we were awarded an additional $660,000 of ARRA security funding to install an inline bag system to more efficiently screen checked luggage. Another step in modernizing PIE and making your travel experience even better!

More to come….Noah Lagos, A.A.E.

AIR SERVICE NEWS

Allegiant Air announced the addition of Bangor, Maine to their growing list of non-stop destinations. Bangor has been one of the most requested cities in Tampa Bay with convenient access from Bangor Int’l Airport to cities in Maine and the New England - Atlantic Canada region. Service begins November 20th. Additionally, Canadian service by Sunwing and Transat Holidays will resume in the winter.

Low-cost/Non-stop Service - PIE ranks as the 33rd largest airport out of 74 in the Southeast based on passenger numbers in a 2009 report by Mead & Hunt. Most impressive is our average one-way outbound passenger fare of $77.77, down 9% from the 2008 rate, compared to the overall SE Region average of $157.31! Not only is this one of the lowest averages in the Southeast, but also within our local Tampa Bay market. Our $78 rate is significantly lower than Tampa Int’l Airport’s $138.43 average and Sarasota-Bradenton Int’l Airport’s $147.40. Allegiant Air, USA3000, Sunwing, and AirTransat continue to deliver terrific, low-cost travel options to our customers.
AIRPORT PLANNING STUDIES & PROJECTS - The latest news on ongoing projects and planning studies at the airport.

Terminal Renovation Project
The terminal renovation is nearing completion with substantial work to be finished by the end of October. Gates 2-6 hold rooms, passenger loading bridges, the public art glass wall, carpeting & tile, seating are all on schedule. Additionally, the Ticketing B renovation is also wrapping up and preparing for opening in the fall.

American Reinvestment & Recovery Act -Stimulus Project
The airport was granted $5.375 million in stimulus funds in April. Overlapping with the Terminal Renovation project, the contractor quickly mobilized and both projects are proceeding simultaneously. Construction began in August with replacing the terminal sidewalks.

The project includes replacing our two elevators, 53 doors, and interior corridor tile, Ticketing A counters and baggage conveyors, plus additional roofing and airside resurfacing work.

The project will be completed by Spring 2010.

First Class Concessions Renovates
Airport Restaurant and Bar
First Class Concessions is excited to be part of the airport’s terminal renovation and for the new Sam Adams themed bar and grill to be open for the upcoming holiday season. Tasneem Vakharia, President and Owner of First Class Concessions, a California based company, took over operations at PIE approximately a year and a half ago.

With this “first class” partnership, the 2nd floor restaurant and bar and the kiosks in the passenger hold rooms bring a new look and taste to the airport. A new menu debuted in July and upcoming lounge renovations include flat screen TV’s, new furniture, and a draft beer system. The restaurant interior will also be transformed with new tile, wall coverings, and seating.

Additionally, with the Gates 2-6 airport renovations, a new contemporary quick serve restaurant with a comfortable dining area is being developed.
If you have concerns or complaints about aircraft noise from St. Petersburg-Clearwater Int’l Airport, 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 (NATF)**

Representatives from the community, airport, and aviation tenants form the NATF meet to discuss noise affairs at PIE. All meetings are held quarterly in the Airport Conference Room 234 and are open to the public; minutes are posted on the website.

Upcoming meetings will be held at 3:00 PM on:

- 2009/10 -October 28, January 20, April 21, July 21, and October 20

**FAA Inspection of airport receives No discrepancies - 5th consecutive year!**

PIE undergoes an annual FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) Part 139 inspection, which is required to ensure all areas of operation are in full compliance with the federal airport safety standards. Some of the operational areas included in the inspecting the condition of runways, taxiways, safety areas and parking ramps; markings, lights and signs, fuel farms and trucks, firefighting facilities and equipment, perimeter fencing, training records, airfield and daily inspection reports. The airport congratulates all of its staff and partners in this accomplishment.

**Airport 2010 Budget and Audit**

The airport’s new fiscal year begins October 1st. The budget reflects our commitment to operate the airport as efficiently and effectively as possible for our passengers, airlines, tenants, and local community. The overall annual operating expense budget for FY2010 is $10.22 million, including Airco Golf, a decrease of .5% from the prior year. The airport is funded entirely with revenue generated from fees and rents. No Pinellas County ad valorem (property) tax dollars are used to support the operation of the airport.

The airport undergoes various financial audits to monitor fiscal procedures and policies. An audit of FY2009 operating revenues and expenses, federal and state grant revenues, and passenger facility charge collections was conducted by Ernst & Young with no findings or recommendations issued. Additionally, an audit of car rental and paid parking concessionaires, conducted by Pinellas County Internal Audit Division, also reported no findings or recommendations.

**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 or bhumber@pinellascounty.org.

**Rental Car Concessionaires Renew Agreements**

Airport rental car agencies Hertz, Avis-Budget, Enterprise, and Alamo-National recently renewed their concession agreements and will continue serving airport customers during all hours of flight activity. As a convenience to our passengers, the rental car agencies located on-site within the airport terminal are open for business for all arrivals and departures.

**Fall Fly2PIE Golf Savings**

This fall enjoy 20% off your round of golf with the discount code “Fly2PIE”. Airco Golf Course, a Par 72, Championship 18 hole public golf course is located adjacent to the airport. Airco has a putting green, warm-up/hitting station, restaurant, and golf shop. Airco offers a great value to local residents and visitors alike with low rates and a customer friendly operations. For tee times call 727-573-GOLF (4653). The discount may be used once per customer from September to December 31, 2009.
Airport Family Tour - This summer airport employees were invited to bring young family members to PIE to learn about airport operations. The US Coast Guard, FAA Tower, Army Reserve, UPS and the Airport Rescue and Firefighting operation were terrific hosts.

Many of the airport’s employees families had never been to see first hand the many activities happening at PIE. Thank you to all that made the tour a great success!

FLY2PIE VIDEO  The airport debuted a new 14 minute video this summer, produced by Pinellas County Connections TV. It includes the airport’s history, operations, airlines, terminal and renovation projects, and community involvement. The video can be viewed on line at [http://www.fly2pie.com/about/video.asp](http://www.fly2pie.com/about/video.asp). The airport would like to give special thanks to Producer Tony Smith in Pinellas County Communications and to all who contributed to the project.

The 46th Annual Tony Jannus Awards - November 5th, 2009

This year’s award honors The Honorable James L. Oberstar, U.S. Congressman and Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Join us at the luncheon at the Renaissance Vinoy Resort and Golf Club in Snell Isle-St. Petersburg and the dinner banquet at the Tampa Airport Marriot. For information on sponsorships and tickets, visit [www.tonyjannus.org](http://www.tonyjannus.org) or call (727)821-5155 ext.120.

The Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization and supports aviation college scholarships and a high school essay contest competition.