



NOTICE OF  
OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO  
PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGES

Pinellas County is providing an opportunity for public comment until February 17, 2021 related to our proposed new Impose and Use Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) Application #5 for the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport. This written notice is provided in accordance with requirements contained in Federal Aviation Regulation 49 CFR Part 158.24 Passenger Facility Charge.

The County plans to continue the maximum PFC allowable of \$4.50 per enplaned passenger. We anticipate collection on this application to begin on June 1, 2023 or when the previous application is fully collected, whichever is sooner. The total PFC revenue to be collected for projects in this Application is \$6,660,000. The PFC expiration date for this Application is estimated to be February 1, 2025. Future PFC projects will likely extend the expiration date.

The County recommends continued exclusion of Air Traffic/Commercial Operators (ATCO) filing FAA Form 1800-31 and Commuters or Small Certificated Air Carriers (CAC) filing Form T-100, from the collection of PFCs. These nonscheduled/on demand air carriers comprise less than 1% of the total enplanements at PIE. In 2019, ATCO carriers included Netjets Aviation, Inc. and this class of carriers enplaned 169 passengers. CAC carriers, in 2019, included Tropic Ocean Airways, LLC and Tradewind Aviation, LLC, and this class of carriers enplaned 21 passengers. We request this exemption based on the complexity of record keeping, the cost of implementation of collecting and monitoring the PFC program for small carriers, and the fact that ATCOs and CACs account for such a small percentage of total enplanements.

The proposed four projects are described below.

**05-001 Replacement of Decommissioned Runway 9-27 with a Taxiway**

This project includes the design; construction administration and construction management; and construction required to completely demolish and remove a portion of decommissioned Runway 9-27 and replace it with a new taxiway to enhance safety and capacity of the taxiway system to the north of the existing terminal building.

Approximately two thousand feet (2,000') of existing asphalt pavement of Runway 9-27 from the intersection of Taxiway "B" to the intersection with Runway 18-36 will be demolished and removed to allow for a new fifty foot (50') wide asphalt taxiway with turf shoulders to be constructed. This new taxiway will be designed for Airplane Design Group (ADG) C-III aircraft as per the existing Airport Reference Code (ARC) noted in the current Airport Layout Plan. The new taxiway alignment will be located as far north as possible to allow for the future expansion of the existing terminal building.

The project will include the surveys and geotechnical investigations; permitting; pavement demolition; grading and drainage; subgrade preparation; installation of base course and asphalt pavement; pavement markings; lighting and signing; necessary airfield electrical vault improvements; construction sequencing and phasing; and erosion control.

The design will be performed in accordance with the latest versions of FAA Advisory Circulars *150/5300-13A (Airport Design)* and *150/5340-30J (Design and Installation Details for Airport Visual Aids)*, and other applicable advisory circulars as required.

As noted above, the need for this project is to enhance safety and capacity of the taxiway system north of the existing terminal building for the following reasons:

- 1) Taxiway "T" (the taxiway in between the existing Runway 9-27 and the terminal aircraft parking positions on the north) provides the only path of ingress and egress for passenger service aircraft to aircraft parking positions on the north side of the existing terminal building. This new taxiway will provide a second point of entry to or departure from those parking positions should Taxiway "T" be occupied by a disabled aircraft, another taxiing aircraft, or should the taxiway require closure for maintenance activities.
- 2) Aircraft arriving to and departing from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Hangar and the U.S. Coast Guard fixed-wing parking apron also utilize Taxiway "T" for access to the airfield. This new taxiway would eliminate the need for those aircraft to utilize Taxiway "T" thereby deconflicting them from the arriving and departing commercial passenger flights. Having two access points to the airfield will maintain the critical missions of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Coast Guard.
- 3) This project is necessary to allow for the future expansion of the existing passenger terminal building to the north as studied in the Airport's recent Master Plan update.

The estimated start date of this project is October 2022 and it is estimated to be completed in October 2023. The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$8,075,000 with State of Florida SIS funds providing \$3,500,000 and PFCs in the amount of \$4,575,000 to fund the remaining costs.

#### **05-002 Acquire Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Trucks**

This project includes the procurement of two Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) trucks necessary to satisfy the Airport's ARFF Index C requirements. Both trucks will have a 1,500 gallon water capacity (1,250 gpm), 200 gallon foam capacity and 500 lb. dry chemical capacity. These purchases will be made in accordance with applicable FAA Advisory Circulars and the approval of PIE's certification inspector.

These two trucks will replace the ARFF vehicles purchased in 2006 (ARFF 3) and 2003 (ARFF 4). Both vehicles have exceeded their useful life.

ARFF 3 is a 2006 E-One P-5 4x4, that has 1,500 gallons of water capacity, 200 gallons of AFFF capacity and 500 lb. dry chemical capacity. The VIN number is 4ENGAAA8461000382 and its SO# is 130382. This truck is experiencing problems with failing water flow and foam testing, the foam proportioner system, a broken turret actuator, nitrogen system leaks, oil leaks and failing air tank drain valves.

ARFF 4 is a 2003 E-One P-5 4x4, that has 1500 gallons of water capacity, 200 gallons of AFFF capacity and 500 lb. dry chemical capacity. The VIN number is 4ENGAAA8331006170 and its SO# is 126170. This truck is experiencing ongoing problems with its foam proportioner system resulting in failing tests of the foam/water solution mixture. The truck has also experienced bumper turret problems, problems with the dry chemical system, and miscellaneous electrical problems.

The estimated start date of this project is October 2021 and it is estimated to be completed in October 2022. The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$2,000,000 to be funded 100% with PFCs.

#### **05-003 PFC Application Costs**

PFC-eligible general formation costs included in this PFC project are the necessary expenditures to prepare the new PFC application. Development associated with the approved projects in this application will preserve and enhance capacity and safety at the Airport. The total cost of this project is \$52,290. PFCs are anticipated to provide 100% funding for this project. This project started in November 2020 and will be complete July 2021.

#### **05-004 PFC Administration Costs**

PFC-eligible costs included in this PFC project are the eligible ongoing administrative costs, amendments and closeout for this PFC application. Administration costs associated with the approved projects in this application will preserve and enhance capacity and safety at the Airport. The total cost of this project is \$32,710. PFCs are anticipated to provide 100% funding for this project. This project is estimated to start in July 2021 and will be complete in May 2026.

**Comments or a request for more detailed project descriptions should be sent to Yvette Aehle, Deputy Director, Airport Finance & Administration, 14700 Terminal Blvd., Suite #221, Clearwater, FL 33762.**