Air Service/Airline News

March 2018 was another milestone for PIE with our biggest passenger traffic month in our history. With 237,021 passengers in March, we had a 15% increase over 2017. We are also excited to announce another new non-stop city with Allegiant – Nashville!

Sunwing’s seasonal service to Toronto ends April 27th and Halifax, May 2nd. We look forward to welcoming our snow bird friends back for the fall/winter season.

DIRECTOR’S HIGHLIGHTS

Let me begin by thanking our passengers and tenants for their continued patience as we undergo a record amount of construction at the airport. I like to compare airport construction to remodeling your kitchen while preparing for Thanksgiving dinner; there’s just no time to slow down while you continue to build for the future. Our terminal renovation of Gates 7-10 is back on track after hiring a new contractor for its completion. As we add space and amenities to our terminal, we temporarily lost space during construction. We understand the inconvenience to our passengers during the renovation process. It will be worth it when the project is complete, projected for fall 2018.

Outside the terminal, our parking lots and roadways in and surrounding the airport are also under construction. Impacts associated with the Florida Department of Transportation’s Gateway Express Project initiated the need to make these modifications and improvements. Until then, we ask our passengers to allow extra time when traveling to PIE.

We have more projects ready to begin this spring including a new In-line Checked Baggage System for Ticketing A to expedite checked baggage screening processing and renovations to upgrade the U.S. Customs Inspection Facility to meet new design standards. These terminal facility enhancement projects will help to sustain future passenger growth and open up opportunities to increase air service.

While these projects are underway, we are strategizing and planning for the next 20 years. The new Airport Master Plan which is currently underway, is a planning tool that will shape PIE’s future capital development program. After a public kick-off meeting in November, our consultant Environmental Science Associates has been gathering and analyzing data. Additional public meetings will be held at key stages in the planning process. A website has been created, piemasterplan.com, to provide the public with regular updates.

Finally, another thank you to our passengers for helping us break the all-time monthly passenger record this past March and surpassing half a million passengers in the first quarter of 2018. Looks like we are in store for another record breaking year!

Onward and upward...

Your Airport Director, Tom Jewsbury

Our own Airport Director, Tom Jewsbury, was recently elected to the Board of Directors for Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA). As the “Voice of Airports”, the mission of ACI-NA is to advocate for policies and provide services that strengthen the ability of airports to serve their passengers, customers and communities in the United States and Canada. ACI-NA’s 378 member airports represent 95% of the domestic and virtually all of the international airline passenger and cargo traffic in the U.S. and Canada. ACI-NA testifies before Congress, comments on DOT policies and proposed FAA, TSA, CBP and EPA regulations, represents U.S. airports in international air service negotiations, and assists the U.S. Government during negotiations on airport and air navigation.
PIE has a number of projects underway to accommodate the rapid growth we are experiencing. We will do our best to minimize the impacts as we look forward to making improvements for our customers.

Airport Capital Improvement Projects

Airport Landside and Parking Lot Improvements - Improvements to the landside facilities of the Airport began construction in December 2017. This $13 million dollar project will provide a new internal roadway system that will better circulate visitors to the terminal curbside and to short and long term parking areas. An additional 373 parking spaces will also be added.

Additionally, our Ground Transportation Lot will be closing in the near future for approximately two months. Passengers can get taxis and hotel or off-site rental car shuttles in front of the terminal as pictured in the photo at right.

As the Florida Department of Transportation’s Gateway Express Project progresses in the area surrounding the airport, our traffic signal will be relocated from its current location to the road adjacent to the Air Traffic Control Tower. The Gateway Toll Road project will significantly improve traffic flow on Roosevelt Boulevard, the road leading into the airport.

Terminal Renovation Phase 3 – The new contractor, Walbridge, will take over our Terminal Renovation project in April with a fall completion date. The addition of 12,000 square feet to Gates 7-11 and expanded concession space for news & gifts and food & beverage will be a great kick-off for our busy holiday season. Great Explorations is also creating our first Children’s Play Area with an airplane cockpit and air traffic control tower theme. The project also includes new restrooms in these gates, as well as in Baggage Claim, and in the Sam Adams Grill restaurant space open to the public on the 2nd floor of the terminal.

New Maintenance Facility - The Airport will begin construction on a $1.3 million dollar Maintenance Facility in the summer of 2018. This 10,500 square foot facility will provide maintenance personnel a new facility for operations and storage of equipment adjacent to the terminal and airfield.

Ticketing “A” Checked Baggage Inspection System - A new $12.5 million dollar checked baggage inspection system will be installed in the Ticketing “A” area beginning in April 2018. This system will allow the Transportation Security Administration to screen checked baggage at a much higher rate than the current system.

Customs and Border Protection Improvements - This $4 million dollar project will bring the existing Federal Inspections Services facility up to the current design standards. Construction of this project will begin in the fall of 2018.

Airport Security System Improvements - This $2.5 million dollar project will modernize the existing security system throughout the Airport. Construction of this project will begin in the fall of 2018.
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 PM in Airport Conference Room #234.
2018 Dates:
April 18, July 18, October 17

PIE INTERNSHIPS
The airport welcomed Pinellas County Schools Executive Intern Valentina Cossio this semester. Valentina is a senior in the Osceola Fundamental/St. Petersburg College Dual Enrollment Program. Valentina focused on public relations for her internship.

This summer, PIE will host a paid Airport Operations Internship. This position is for a college student majoring in an aviation degree and is posted on pinellascounty.org/hr/employment.htm

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS WORKPLACE MENTORING PROGRAM
This May the airport’s first class of “Littles” will graduate high school. Two years ago, employees of PIE, Signature Flight Support, Allegiant, and other businesses at PIE became mentors to a group of Clearwater High School Juniors. Students meet one on one with their "Bigs" and gather again as a group for lunch. Sharing our careers and offering our support has been a very rewarding experience. PIE will continue the program next year with a new class of juniors.

Stellar Partners launches Treat Our Troops Program
PIE's News & Gifts Concessionaire Stellar Partners will provide customers an opportunity to Treat The Troops by buying an item and leaving it in a designated bin. Stellar will give the treats to our military personnel as a thank you from our customers.
Stellar also generously donates goodie bags to our Honor Flight Veterans for their departure flight to Washington D.C.

Master Concessionaire Request for Proposal (RFP)
The airport will issue an RFP in approximately May/June for a Master Concessionaire to provide food/beverage/news & gifts/duty-free retail sales for PIE. As the airport enplanements exceeded 1 million, we will seek an ideal mix of local, regional, and national brands from an experienced airport concessionaire.

Master Plan Update
The Airport Master Plan kicked off in November 2017 with a Public Open House. The Master Plan will take approximately 18 months to complete and will include additional public workshops. The airport inventory and existing conditions profile, and aviation forecast chapters of the plan have been completed. The aviation forecasts have been submitted to the FAA for review.

PIE opened a Privacy Room for Nursing/Pumping Moms and other special needs passengers in Gates 2-6. Adjacent to the restrooms, passengers can call for an access code. The room has space for family members and is limited to 30 minutes of use.

Stellar also generously donates goodie bags to our Honor Flight Veterans for their departure flight to Washington D.C.
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Veterans Honor Flights

PIE hosts its 31st and 32nd Veterans Honor Flights with Honor Flight of West Central Florida on April 24th and June 5th. The Veterans and their “Guardians” fly to Washington D.C. for the day on an Allegiant Charter to visit the War Memorials and enjoy fellowship amongst other veterans. Please join us at 8 p.m. to celebrate their return and honor our veterans. For information, visit Honorflightwcf.org.

Community Presentation & Education Tours

PIE provides presentations and tours to schools, scouts, and leadership/civic groups. For more info, contact Michele at 727-453-7879 or mrouth@fly2pie.com.

Allegiant and PIE partnered to provide a tour for Salvation Army Girls group to earn their World Travel Badge. Allegiant Flight Attendant Danielle is a volunteer with the group and arranged a tour on an Allegiant Airbus and to meet the Captain. PIE received 17 individual thank you notes from the girls for their airport tour.

Tony Jannus

Save the Date

For the 55th Annual Tony Jannus Society Award honoring our 2018 recipient, author, speaker, and safety advocate, Capt. Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger.

Thursday, Dec 13, 2018
Hilton Tampa Downtown
211 North Tampa St.
TonyJannus.com