

Around The State ...

FY07 Airport Aid Program Funding

GDOT-Aviation Programs is pleased to announce it has received \$6,221,733 for funding for its Airport Aid Program for Fiscal Year 2007 which begins July 1, 2006. The FY07 program contains an increase of more than \$1 million from prior year funding. A formal announcement of projects selected for funding for the coming fiscal year is slated for late May 2006.

Aviation Programs would also like to extend its appreciation to the Georgia Airports Association for rallying to support increased funding for the program during this past legislative session.

City of Cochran Dedicates Runway

At a ceremony held on March 15, 2006, the City of Cochran dedicated its new runway to former Mayor Charles Killebrew. Mayor Killebrew, who recently passed away, was a life-long supporter of the airport and worked tirelessly to facilitate improvements to the airfield. Construction on the new runway will begin later this year and is a replacement for the existing runway.

Gov. Perdue Dedicates Thomasville's New Terminal

The City of Thomasville opened its new general aviation terminal building on January 27, 2006. Governor Sonny Perdue provided the keynote address for the dedication ceremony and was joined by state, city and county officials; local citizens; and members of the airport committee. Perdue recognized the vision and leadership of the city and county in making improvements to the airport. Funding for a portion of the terminal building was provided by a grant from the OneGeorgia Authority.

More on Terminal Buildings . . .

Decatur County dedicated and opened its new terminal building at the Decatur County Industrial Airpark in Bainbridge in December 2005.

Augusta Regional at Bush Field has completed Phase I of its airline terminal renovation and opened its new holding rooms. The holding rooms were opened in mid-March just in time to welcome visitors who flew into town for the famed Masters golf tournament.

Airfield Pavement Management Study Update

Aviation Programs is currently advertising for consultant selection for the update of its statewide airfield pavement management study. The study is slated to begin this fall with a completion date in approximately 18 months. The pavement management study provides GDOT with an assessment of current pavement conditions, projections for pavement deterioration in the coming five years and provides a recommended list of airport pavements that could benefit from maintenance and rehabilitation. For more information on the pavement study update, contact Carol Comer at 404-651-5207.

Reauthorization – Get Ready Now

A reminder that reauthorization for the federal airport program is just around the corner and would become effective in fiscal year 2008. Several issues are currently on the table – one of which is a push toward user fees.

Monthly Airfield Maintenance Tips

Remember the importance of keeping the access route and areas surrounding any navigational aids and AWOS stations neatly mowed and clear of weeds and debris. This provides unobstructed access to these facilities for FAA and non-federal technicians who need to conduct maintenance and inspection activities.

Spring is the perfect time to blade back the overgrowth of grass on the shoulders of all airfield pavements – especially the runway. This promotes positive drainage of water from the pavement surface, which leads to increased pavement life. ✈️

GEORGIA AIRPORT ADVOCATE



A Periodic Newsletter of the GEORGIA AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2006

DayJet™ to Launch “Per-Seat, On-Demand” Service

DayJet is pioneering a new option in regional business transportation that will make the convenience of corporate jet travel a commercial reality for those “road warriors” whose jobs dictate a life on the road.

DayJet’s simple yet powerful mission is to make on-demand regional travel widely accessible and affordable with the nation’s first “Per-Seat, On-Demand” jet service. DayJet service combines the convenience and productivity of corporate jet travel with the availability and affordability of commercial air travel.

The service will be rolled out across the U.S. on a region-by-region basis, beginning in the Southeast (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) later this year.

Within a given region, DayJet will offer “Per-Seat, On-Demand” service between designated regional and community airports that currently have limited or no scheduled airline service and are capable of supporting “Per-Seat, On-Demand” operations. This network of airports, called DayPorts™, will serve as the primary points of origin or destination for “Per-Seat, On-Demand” flights.

DayJet is not considering construction of new airports or additional new facilities at existing airports, nor do they expect communities to do so. Rather, the plan is to make use of existing infrastructure by partnering with organizations that can provide facilities and services.

DayJet will partner with airports and FBOs at several levels:

- **DayStop.** The most basic level of operation is for an airport or FBO to serve as an extended pick-up or drop-off point for passenger service.

- **DayPort.** The second level is for an airport or FBO to serve as a primary point of origin or destination for “Per-Seat, On-Demand” flights. Every DayPort will house DayJet customer care representatives and necessary infrastructure to ensure an optimal customer experience.

- **DayBase.** The most intensive level of operation is for a DayPort to also become home for maintenance facilities and flight operations personnel. Pilots will return home at the end of their shift each day and the DayJet fleet will return to a DayBase each night for maintenance.

DayPorts are much more than pick-up and drop-off points for travelers. With planes and crews based in surrounding communities, and fuel and supplies purchased from local airport facilities, DayPorts are key contributors to the overall economic development of an area.

Register your interest in becoming an Airport/FBO Partner on the DayJet website at www.dayjet.com/users/register.asp. DayJet will launch its service toward the end of 2006, subject to receipt of the necessary government operating authority. ✈️

Almost 52 million trips are made each year by business professionals traveling 100 to 700 miles (one-way) between the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

- 40 million of all Southeastern intra-regional trips are driven

- 12 million of these trips are flown on scheduled airlines

Source: www.DayJet.com

Visit Us Online At
WWW.GEORGIAAIRPORTS.ORG

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MISSION STATEMENT

“To provide, develop and expand a safe and efficient airports system to meet the future economic growth of Georgia through the full implementation of the State Aviation System Plan.”

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President's Message

By Greg Kelly

As you are most likely aware by now, HR 1094 was stopped in the Senate Rules Committee by the Executive Branch two days before the session ended. It is unfortunate that this legislation was stopped this way because so many of you, along with our Lobbyists, Officers, Board of Directors, the DOT Aviation Division, numerous members of the House and Senate (especially Rep Chuck Scheid), GBAA, GATA and AOPA put so much effort into getting it as far as it went.

Vernon Lee and Charlie Watts, our lobbyists, state that the votes were there for 1094 to succeed on the Senate floor but it never got the chance. While it is presently unclear why the Executive Branch wanted it stopped, it is clear that it made it further with more momentum than anyone expected. This is a direct result of the collaborative efforts of the Georgia Airports Association and the entities noted above. We have demonstrated that our Association has the capacity to produce an effective lobbying campaign. This is something that will serve us well in future lobbying endeavors. We have shown we can come together and make our voice heard in Atlanta. We have an opportunity right now to build on our newfound and hard-earned recognition across the entire state legislative body. They have heard us. We got their attention and we have a plan to make our lobbying effort even more effective in the future.

The following plan was approved by our Board of Directors at our April BOD meeting to build upon the momentum we created:

1. Update and upgrade the GAA PR brochure and video produced several years ago.
2. Solidify our new relationship with AOPA.
3. Solidify our new relationship with GBAA and NBAA by joining those organizations and participating in their events.
4. Build on our relationship with GATA.
5. Join the Georgia Municipal Association and participate in their annual conference in June as an exhibitor.
6. Join the Georgia County Commissioners Association and attend their conference.
7. Identify key members of the State Legislature and solidify their support for our plight prior to the next session.
8. Establish a relationship with key members of the Executive Branch to ensure we have support at that level in the future.
9. Develop a strategy to increase the levels of the traditional funding mechanism in case the fuel tax funding method is not in the cards next year.
10. Work with Eclipse Aviation and DayJet to bring a VLJ or two to our state for a fly around to several of our airports in a PR effort to ensure our state understands the impact the VLJs will have on our airports and the communities they serve.
11. Post a legislative contact list and create a legislative action section on our website.
12. Reach out to the non-members who participated in the 1094 effort to join the GAA.
13. Include a session on "Effective Lobbying Strategies" at our Conference in October.
14. Set up a lobbying budget to support key members of the Legislative Body who support our cause as well as those who could support our cause.

This plan is designed to broaden our support base across the state by educating and building relationships so when the next session comes around we will have many more people supporting our cause. We need to take action now while the energy is there. I applaud the Board of Directors for their foresightedness and aggressive support for this plan. I think the membership will be well served through these efforts.

While HR 1094 failed to pass, we did receive an increase of \$1.1 million over last year through the traditional budget process. This will put us at just under \$6.2 million. \$650,000 of the increase came from the Governor's office and the remainder came to us as a result of the efforts of our lobbyists. It is clear that our lobbyists worked hard for us prior to and throughout the session. They have earned their keep.

One final note on HR 1094. Rep. Chuck Scheid, the author of 1094, is a businessman, a pilot and an aviation visionary. He sees the importance of airports to the state as the VLJ phenomenon becomes reality. Rep. Scheid worked his butt off to get 1094

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News and Announcements

2006 GAA Annual Conference

Our 2006 Annual Conference is only five months away. We are working hard to make sure that the conference will be as enjoyable and educational as possible. Hotel reservations should be made by going to the GAA website at www.georgiaairports.org. The agenda, registration information, sponsor and exhibitor information will be published in the near future.

Contact Amanda Teston at ateston@savannahairport.com if you have any questions, need any additional information, or if you have any specific topics you would like to see covered during one of the sessions. We look forward to seeing you in Savannah!

2007 GAA Annual Conference Location Selected

The GAA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the site selected for the 2007 GAA Annual Conference is Augusta. The Conference will be held at the August Marriott located on the river just off of Tenth Street. It is right in the middle of everything downtown and is a great facility in a great location. More detailed information will be provided at the GAA Conference in Savannah.



Georgia State Air Show 2006

The 2006 Georgia State Air Show will be held at Heart of Georgia Regional Airport in Eastman, Georgia, on Saturday, June 10, 2006. Check out www.georgiastateairshow.com for more information.

ILS Changes

Be aware that the FAA is systematically phasing out Middle Markers as part of the ILS. Outer Markers will be next. This is a system-wide process.

Proposed AIP Cuts for 2007

You should be aware that the Administration is proposing significant cuts to the FAA budget in FY2007 that

would result in a decrease in the AIP budget. The AOPA has a detailed article summarizing the situation at www.aopa.org/whatsnew/newsitems/2006/060208budget.html. You are encouraged to write your Congressional Members and Senators regarding this matter. A sample letter can be found on the GAA website at www.georgiaairports.org.

Delta Airlines Update

Delta Air Line pilots, represented by the Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l (ALPA), reached a tentative agreement (TA) with management after countless meetings between the union's and the company's negotiators. The tentative agreement is expected to be presented to the union's governing body, the Delta MEC, in the upcoming weeks.

Details of the TA will not be released as they must first be considered for ratification by the MEC before it can be presented to the pilot body for a vote. The process of review and ratification will occur as an internal process. If ratified, the agreement is then subject to approval by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Stay tuned.

On the Move

Congratulations go out to GAA member and supporter Claudia Holliway (formerly Claudia Bower) on her new job. Claudia recently joined the LPA Group's Columbia SC Division as an Associate.

The Atlanta ADO is pleased to announce that John R. Marshall has joined the ADO as of February 21st and will be responsible for planning duties in Southeast Georgia. John is a Professional Engineer with 25 years of combined experience in aviation and construction. He earned a BS in Civil Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and an MS from Georgia Tech. John comes to the Atlanta ADO after 14 years with Delta Air Lines. He has also worked for Chicago Bridge & Iron Company and Georgia Tech Research Institute. Mr. Marshall can be reached at 404-305-7153 to assist you with planning, AIP and PFC funding, and airport safety issues. ✉

President's Message (Continued from Page 2)

through. He fought tooth and nail day and night, right down to the last minute. I have never seen a non-airport person with such conviction about airport funding as Rep. Scheid. Chuck Scheid gave us something meaningful to fight for, something that brought us together as a group like never before. He gave us something that allowed us to come of age as a meaningful Association with a loud voice. I don't think there is anyone who was more disappointed that 1094 was stopped than Chuck Scheid. We owe him a debt of gratitude. The Board of Directors has authorized us to procure and present a plaque to Rep. Scheid expressing the appreciation of our membership. I would encourage each of you to send him an email expressing your individual appreciation as well. His email address is chuck.scheid@msn.com. I think that he would appreciate that very much. It's the least we can do. Unfortunately, Chuck Scheid will not be seeking re-election; he plans to run for Labor Commissioner instead. I am certain he would appreciate your support in that endeavor as well. Thank you, Chuck Scheid. ✉