



**Gulfport-Biloxi
International Airport**
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Plane Talk News



DECEMBER 2014

GULFPORT-BILOXI AIRPORT RECEIVES US DOT SMALL COMMUNITY AIR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport was recently awarded a \$350,000 Small Community Air Service Development grant from the United States Department of Transportation. Funds will be used to provide a revenue guarantee and marketing support targeting seasonal service from Sun Country Airlines.

Sun Country Airlines is headquartered in Minneapolis, MN and currently operates the air charter program on behalf of the Beau Rivage at Gulfport-Biloxi Airport. The Airport Authority seeks to expand regularly scheduled service offered by Sun Country out of the airport. "The grant provides an opportunity to ultimately implement seasonal service to the Mississippi Gulf Coast," said Clay Williams, Executive Director.

"The Gulf Coast has enjoyed this type of service in the past, bringing in travelers to the market to experience the region's many tourism offerings and the airport seeks to re-establish seasonal flights," said Airport Authority Chairman Travis Lott.

The Small Community Air Service Program provides an opportunity for communities to develop solutions to air service issues impacting a particular market.

"Working with the airline and other community partners, the airport seeks to develop service to a seasonal market bringing in passengers during off-peak times to the Gulf Coast," said Williams.

The Department of Transportation received 52 applications from 27 states and 16 applicants were chosen under the \$7 million nationwide program. The applications included proposals for feasibility studies, service upgrades and new or expanded service initiatives.

"When the federal government invests in air service in Mississippi, our state's economic development efforts are bolstered," U.S. Senator Roger Wicker said. "Opening up new travel routes are critical to strengthening the local economy and expanding opportunities during the Coast's off-peak season."

"I support this opportunity to help grow the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport as a gateway to South Mississippi for tourists and business interests, and I am pleased that this project has won the support of the U.S. Department of Transportation," said U.S. Senator Thad Cochran.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION DESTINATION RATE MAP



The Airport Authority has taken a number of strides as of late to enhance the experience of travelers. Airport ground transportation rules were amended to implement a Destination Flat Rate Map for Taxis. Flat rates were established to 25 frequently traveled destinations across the Coast. The flat rates inform passengers what to expect to pay when visiting our area. It helps make a good first impression which translates to repeat visits to our market. In addition, the new ground transportation rules require that all taxis operating at the airport have access to Keesler Air Force Base and the Navy Seabee Base allowing for convenient access for our military service members. As part of the new criteria, all taxis operating at the airport are now accepting credit card payment for fares.

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DESTINATION RATES

Harrison County		Hancock County		Jackson County	
1. Airport Hotels	\$10	15. Naval Battalion	\$26	23. Chevron	\$100
<i>(Hilton Garden Inn & Marriott)</i>		16. Palace Casino	\$44	24. Ingalls	\$90
2. Beau Rivage	\$39	17. Prime Outlets	\$14		
3. Boomtown	\$42	18. Treasure Bay	\$30		
4. Coast Coliseum	\$27	19. USM Long Beach	\$27		
5. D'Iberville Promenade	\$43				
6. Downtown Gulfport	\$19				
7. Edgewater Mall	\$25				
8. Golden Nugget	\$43				
9. Hard Rock	\$39				
10. Harrah's	\$42				
11. IP Casino	\$41				
12. Island View	\$20				
13. KAFB West Gate 7	\$33				
14. KAFB Main Gate 3	\$36				
<i>(White Avenue)</i>					

Please get a receipt from your driver. To make a compliment or complaint about ground transportation, please contact Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport at 228-863-5951 during normal business hours or e-mail gpt@flygpt.com

GULFPORT-BILOXI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND GULF COAST BUSINESS COUNCIL CO-HOSTED AIR SERVICE ROUNDTABLE

The Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport and the Gulf Coast Business Council co-hosted an Air Service Roundtable late October in Biloxi. Airline representatives from Delta, American and Sun Country heard presentations regarding the current status of the Mississippi Gulf Coast economy as well as future prospects for increased development. “The Air Service Roundtable served as an effective forum providing background on future growth and expansion along the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region,” said Dale Morris of American Airlines. “The roundtable provides an opportunity for our airline partners to gather a firsthand understanding of our market potential,” said Clay Williams, Executive Director Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport.

Attendees received an overview of information from a variety of industries ranging from shipbuilding, tourism, gaming, and conventions to military

installations. “As a new carrier at Gulfport-Biloxi, the roundtable was especially beneficial to us from an educational standpoint,” said Eric Curry of Sun Country Airlines. Learning about the continued and exciting growth and vitality of the region will help us make decisions as we consider service expansion to the area,” said Curry. “Air travel is critically important to the future development of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the Gulfport-Biloxi Airport supports this growth both from a leisure and business travel standpoint,” said Jack Norris, President Gulf Coast Business Council.

In addition to the industry presentations, airline representatives had the chance to tour various sites across the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



Gulfport-Biloxi
International Airport

WELCOME GENERAL JOE SPRAGGINS



The Airport Authority welcomes General Benjamin J. Spraggins to the Airport Authority Board of Commissioners. He was appointed as representative for the City of Gulfport. Currently, General Spraggins works as Chief Operating Officer for the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. General Spraggins previously served as Director of Emergency Management, Homeland Security, and E-911 Commission for Harrison County, MS. General Spraggins directed the response rescue and recovery for Harrison

County during and after Hurricane Katrina. He also served as Commander for the Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center of Gulfport and the 186th Air Refueling Wing in Meridian, MS.



AIRPORT AUTHORITY OBTAINS LOWER INTEREST RATE ON BONDS

The Gulfport-Biloxi Airport Authority will save \$6.7 million over the next 14 years after refinancing revenue bonds which were originally issued in 2004. The Airport Authority issued bonds to expand and enhance the terminal facility from 90,000 to 160,000 square feet providing for a larger and more modern facility to welcome visitors to South Mississippi. The original issue was \$37 million and the amount refinanced was \$27 million. “The bonds were initially issued to help the Airport construct the first-class facility that we have today and we were pleased that Hancock Bank worked with the Airport to secure a lower interest rate for the remaining term,” said Airport Authority Commissioner Frank Genzer. The interest rate on the bonds is now 3.1 percent. Annual debt service for the Airport Authority will be lowered to \$2.2 million annually. The bonds are repaid by Passenger Facility Charge fees of \$4.50 per airline ticket and airport operating revenues. They are scheduled to be repaid in 2028.

CUSTOMER SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS

WEB REDESIGN
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- Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport Features New Coastal Artists
- Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport Completes Widening of Taxiway B
- Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport and the Gulf Coast Business Council Co-hosted Air Service Roundtable
- Richard Matheny Served Two Terms on

EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING



Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport

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A customer service training video has been developed that is viewed by all who work and do business at the airport highlighting ways to enhance the experience of the flying public.

GPT AMBASSADORS



The Airport Ambassador Program is committed to the enhancement of customer service at Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport.

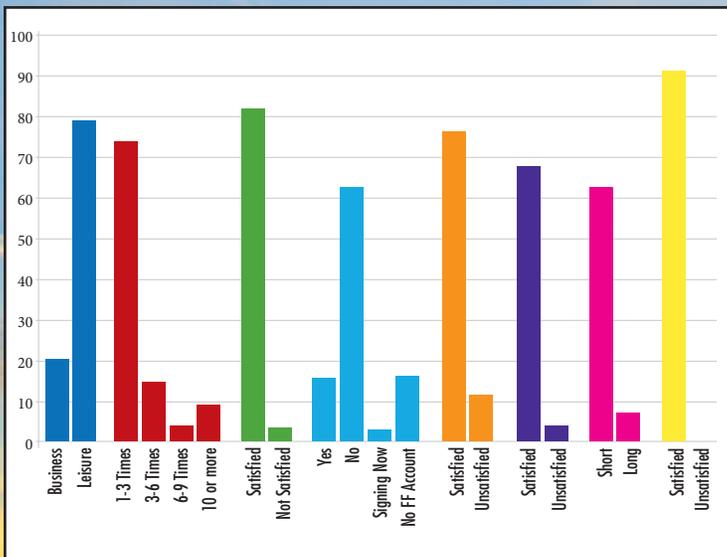
Volunteers are responsible for meeting and greeting guests that visit the airport's Visitor Information Center.

The Airport Ambassador Program now has approximately fourteen regularly scheduled volunteers providing a warm welcome for visitors to South Mississippi. Updated training is provided by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau.

<p>Fly GPT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airlines Route Map Arrivals Departures Flight Tracker Air Traffic Map Weather 	<p>Visit GPT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terminal Amenities USO Gulf Coast Ground Transportation Hotel Information Area Tourism <p>Airport Rules, Regulations and Fees effective October 1, 2014</p>	<p>Connect with GPT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airport Authority Operations Statistics/Financials History Airport Arts Program Community Relations General Aviation Air Cargo 	<p>Contact GPT</p> <p>Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport 14035 - L Airport Road Gulfport, MS 39503 Phone: 228-863-5951 1-866-4GPTBLX Fax: 228-863-5953 Email general inquiries to: gpt@flygpt.com</p>
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PASSENGER SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS



1. Do you typically fly for business or leisure?
2. How many times do you typically fly out of Gulfport-Biloxi Airport each year?
3. How satisfied are you with the surface lot and/or parking garage?
4. Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport offers Rewards Program for free to all travelers with a frequent flier account at www.flygptrewards.com. You can earn additional airline miles whenever you shop, dine, and park at the airport. Are you currently a member or interested in becoming a member?
5. How would you describe your experience with the Transportation Security Administration at Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport?
6. How would you rate the shopping and dining options at Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport?
7. How would you rate baggage wait times at Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport?
8. How would you rate the overall cleanliness and appearance of Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport?

AIRPORT COMPLETES WIDENING OF TAXIWAY B

The completion of the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport Taxiway B widening project will make the military apron more accessible for larger aircraft. The \$3 million dollar project improves safety by strengthening and widening the taxiway pavement for enhanced military operations making the Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center more competitive for increased military activities and future deployments. The project was funded by the Mississippi Development Authority, Federal Aviation Administration, and Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. The improvements on Taxiway B aid the Combat Readiness Training Center in continuing to provide low cost tailored training to all branches of the military. "The teamwork between the CRTC and Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport Authority to make this happen with a minimum impact on the airlines and military operations is once again a testament to the great partnership we have with our respective missions and the community," said Colonel John Ladner, Commander, Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center.

The Combat Readiness Training Center is the premier Air National Guard training center in the U.S., with over 20,000 airmen, soldiers, sailors, and law enforcement personnel training here annually, along with international allies. The overall economic impact of the ANG-CRTC is approximately \$60 million while providing world class training at a very low cost.



RUNWAY TOUCHDOWN ZONES UPDATE



The airport is currently reconstructing and replacing the Runway Touchdown Zones on the main runway. The Runway Touchdown Zones receive the most impact when an aircraft lands. The project is funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Guard Bureau. The southern end of the runway has been upgraded and construction on the North end of the runway is estimated to be complete in early 2015. To minimize disruption of aircraft operations, much of the work has been performed at night.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

from Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport

NEW COASTAL ARTISTS FEATURED

Two new art exhibits are now on display at Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. Both exhibits occupy the display cases located near the airline gates on the second floor of the terminal building. The art exhibits feature the work of Suzy Templin and Betty Magee.

Suzy was born and raised in Minnesota where she earned two bachelor degrees in Fine Art from the Minnesota State University graduating in 1996. She relocated to South Mississippi's Keesler Air Force Base in 1989 where she was hired as a Military Fine Artist. She has been doing coastal artwork for 25 years where her true love for the Gulf Coast is portrayed. She has won the Biloxi Seafood Festival Poster Contest five times. Suzy recently won Chefs to the Coast event's poster contest and the Blue Moon Art Project that was held during The Peter Anderson festival in downtown Ocean Springs. "Being an artist is my passion. There is a place I find in my mind that puts things in perspective for me, so I can create artwork I feel satisfied with," said artist Suzy Templin.

Betty Magee began painting over 40 years ago. Betty was born in McComb, MS where her father was a very prolific graphic artist, and her roots were really in New Orleans, LA where she began her art career. She won awards in her first four shows she entered which was an endorsement for her to go forward. Betty is accomplished in all mediums oils, pastels, ceramics, watercolor, acrylics and more. Art is her identity. Betty says, "I have to create to feel alive." Betty loves to paint nature. The native flora and fauna of the coast, especially the bogs with pitcher plants are represented in her exhibit in the airport. Betty also is one of the founders of the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center of Arts & Education.

The Airport Art Program enhances the experience of those flying from the airport. The program helps to educate visitors and locals on the cultural heritage, and showcase the artistic development of the Mississippi Gulf Coast region. Other artists who wish to submit their work for consideration for the Airport Art Program are urged to contact Ashley Duke at aduke@flygpt.com for more information.





COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Blood Drive



Heart Walk Team



Veteran's Day Recognition



PLP Expo



MATHENY SERVED TWO TERMS ON AIRPORT AUTHORITY BOARD

Richard Matheny served as the appointee from the City of Gulfport to the Airport Authority Board since 2004. Matheny is a retired banker from Gulfport who also previously served on the Board of the Mississippi State Port Authority. The Airport has seen tremendous growth during this time period both from public and private investment. The terminal building was enhanced and expanded to 160,000 square feet. Parking facilities, hotels, a rental car service center and office park have also been developed. General Aviation and air cargo were relocated to the southwest side of the airfield and John Hill Boulevard was four laned. "Richard Matheny served the Airport Authority well and was an advocate for increased development," said Airport Authority Commissioner Frank Genzer. "We value the service that Richard provided and want to thank him for his many efforts over the years," said Airport Commissioner Travis Lott. Gulfport-Biloxi Airport received \$65 million after Hurricane Katrina which helped to refurbish airfield infrastructure. \$37 million in revenue bonds were issued to pay for the terminal renovation and expansion.



Employee of the Month



JULY

Krista Edwards
Administrative
Secretary
5 years



AUGUST

Peter Grundy
Landside
Maintenance Associate
1 year



SEPTEMBER

JJ Tolson
Airside
Maintenance Lead
14 years



OCTOBER

Carl Breland
Manager of
Construction and
Professional Services
6 years



NOVEMBER

Phillip Edwards
Custodian
10 years

Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport Authority

Frank Genzer, NCARB, AIA
Commissioner, City of Biloxi

Joe Spraggins
Commissioner, City of Gulfport

Travis Lott, Jr.
Commissioner, Harrison County

Clay Williams
Executive Director

Jim Foster, A.A.E.
Assistant Executive Director

Don Shepley
Director of Planning & Business Development

Casey Lyons
Director of Operations

Stephen Oberlies
Director of Finance

Ashley Duke
Director of Marketing

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CHARLOTTE

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American Airlines

DELTA

UNITED

U.S AIRWAYS

sun country airlines

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