



Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport

PLANE TALK News

JUNE 2016

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AIR SERVICE INCENTIVE PROGRAM LEGISLATION APPROVED

The state legislature approved legislation this session to enhance the region's ability to recruit additional air service options. The legislation allows for the Mississippi Development Authority to enter into agreements with air carriers to assist with revenue guarantees, ground handling, marketing or seat cost mitigation.

"We were pleased the legislature recognizes the impact that additional air service can have on a community," said Clay Williams, Executive Director of the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport.

Funds for this effort are coming from initial BP Economic Damages Settlement payments to the State of Mississippi. The amount appropriated for this air service incentive program was \$2.5 million.

"The expansion of air service allows visitors from across the country to gain access to Mississippi's world-class casinos and unique tourism industry," said Mike Bruffey, Deputy Director of the Mississippi Gaming and Hospitality Association. "This program demonstrates a major commitment to tourism and economic growth by our state and local leaders."

Ashley Edwards, President of the Gulf Coast Business Council, said expanded air service is "critical for the continued growth and development of the Mississippi Gulf Coast."

"The Gulf Coast Business Council is a strong proponent of the new air service program and we expect it will result in a positive economic impact for South Mississippi," Edwards said. "With our world-class airport facilities, tourism amenities and major industries, we believe this program represents a smart and strategic investment in the future of the Mississippi Gulf Coast."





WWII HANGAR RESTORATION COMPLETED

The restoration of a World War II era hangar was completed this month at Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. The airport held a lease signing ceremony to officially transfer the hangar to the Mississippi National Guard.

“The Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport is pleased to see the World War II era hangar restored, and grateful the Mississippi National Guard is able to utilize the facility to enhance its mission,” said Clay Williams, Executive Director of the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport.

The nearly \$1.7 million exterior restoration began in August 2015. The hangar was formerly the FBO at the airport, and was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Built in 1944 during World War II, the hangar is on the list of National Historic places and is designated a Mississippi Landmark.

The hangar was the last commercial facility on the military side of the airfield. The transfer of the hangar provides for a contiguous footprint for the National Guard base.





2016 EMERGENCY EXERCISE

Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport held its 2016 Emergency Exercise in June. The triennial exercise allows the airport and first response agencies to evaluate emergency response systems, techniques, capabilities and communication networks as they relate to a major aircraft incident.

While training is required for U.S. airports by the Federal Aviation Administration, each participating agency has the opportunity to achieve and refine their training skills as well.

Agencies playing the largest roles in the exercise include Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport Operations, Mississippi Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center, Gulfport Fire Department, Harrison County Fire Service, American Medical Response, Ochsner Flight Care, Gulfport Police Department, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, American Red Cross and numerous airlines.



AIRPORT OPERATIONS | Did you know?

GPT has two runways: 14/32 (9,002 feet long), and 18/36 (4,935 feet long), and approximately 9,125,029 sq ft of available pavement for aircraft movement which equates to nearly 144 miles of one-lane road!



SEASONAL SERVICE TO MINNEAPOLIS/ ST. PAUL RETURNS TO GULFPORT-BILOXI

Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport welcomes the return of non-stop service to/from Minneapolis, Minn. this fall.

The seasonal service, offered by Sun Country airlines, will run September-December with flights on Thursdays and Sundays. Last year, the service drew more than 1,600 visitors over a 13-week period.



“Sun Country Airlines is pleased to continue with the seasonal service between Minneapolis/St. Paul and the Gulfport/Biloxi area in the fall of 2016. The stunning natural beauty and growing gaming industry of Gulfport/Biloxi is a natural draw for visitors and Sun Country is proud to be a part of the area’s tourism growth,” said Larry Chestler, Executive VP of Sun Country Airlines.

South Mississippians can take advantage of outdoor pursuits enjoying cooler Minnesota temperatures and fall foliage in the Land of 10,000 Lakes. Minneapolis is also home to the Mall of America and many museums, theaters as well as numerous entertainment and dining options.

Visit Mississippi Gulf Coast is partnering with the airport in promoting the non-stop flights.

LARGER AIRCRAFT, ADDITIONAL MORNING FLIGHT CURRENTLY OFFERED

Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport passengers currently have the opportunity to travel to Charlotte on larger aircraft, and can take advantage of an additional morning flight to Houston in June. American Airlines has begun flying its CRJ-700 to Charlotte. United Airlines’ new morning flight to Houston is available in June and is on sale now.



“The additional United frequency will allow our passengers to experience more flexibility and connectivity when booking their upcoming travel,” said Clay Williams, Executive Director of the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport.

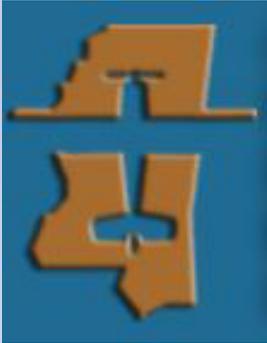
Larger aircraft flying to Charlotte means increased capacity for the Gulfport-Biloxi airport and more accessibility for airport passengers.

“Having larger aircraft available through American enhances the experience for eastbound travel,” Williams said.

Delta Airlines continues to offer mainline service on 717 and MD-88 aircraft to Atlanta from Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport.



WILLIAMS NAMED SECRETARY OF MAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Clay Williams, Executive Director of the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, was recently named Secretary of the Mississippi Airports Association (MAA) Board of Directors at the association's annual conference in Starkville this year.

Williams will also serve as the MAA Annual Conference Coordinator for 2017. The three-day conference will be held on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and will bring approximately 200 aviation business executives to the area.

US SENATOR ROGER WICKER VISITS GPT

United States Senator Roger Wicker visited Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport in June. Senator Wicker stopped by the USO to greet military passengers and their families and took a tour of the terminal facility and the airfield to see recently completed projects and improvements being made at the airport.

Senator Wicker is a member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; Armed Services Committee; Budget Committee; Environment and Public Works Committee; and Rules Committee. He has represented Mississippi in the United States Senate since December 2007.



AUDUBON CENTER AIRPORT DISPLAY



Gulfport-Biloxi passengers can enjoy a new display from the Pascagoula River Audubon Center in the airport terminal.

Located in downtown Moss Point, the Audubon Center serves as a gateway to the largest, last free flowing river in the lower contiguous U.S. states and connects visitors to nature through education and conservation.

For more information, visit pascagoula.river.audubon.org.



Southern Miss baseball team at GPT



Leadership Gulf Coast at GPT



GPT celebrates National Police Week



GPT Chairman Joe Spraggins and Congressman Steven Palazzo



St. Mark's Preschool Airport Tour



Airlines celebrate Mardi Gras



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EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



Jimmy Braun
Systems Tech
3 years



Mark Taberero
Custodian
3 years

GULFPORT-BILOXI REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Travis Lott, Jr.

Commissioner, Harrison County

Joe Spraggins

Commissioner, City of Gulfport

Clark Griffith

Commissioner, City of Biloxi

Clay Williams

Executive Director

Jim Foster, A.A.E.

Assistant Executive Director

Don Shepley

Director of Planning & Business Development

Casey Lyons

Director of Operations & Maintenance

Stephen Oberlies

Director of Finance

Teckie Hinkebein

Director of Marketing



Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport

14035 Airport Road; Gulfport, MS 39503

A map of the United States highlighting flight routes from Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. Dashed lines connect the airport to four major cities: Dallas/Ft. Worth, Houston, Atlanta, and Charlotte. The map also features logos for American Airlines, Delta, SkyTeam, and United.

DALLAS/FT. WORTH

HOUSTON

ATLANTA

CHARLOTTE

American Airlines

DELTA

SKYTEAM

UNITED

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