



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

DRAFT

**AVIATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FORT LAUDERDALE EXECUTIVE AIRPORT
RED TAILS CONFERENCE ROOM
6000 NW 21 AVENUE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023 – 1:30 P.M.**

	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance 7/2023 - 6/2024	
		Present	Absent
Board Members			
Mark Volchek, Chair	P	2	1
William Gilbert, Vice Chair	P	3	0
David Ash	P	2	1
Kelly Gordon	P	3	0
Jeff Johnson [arrived @ 1:39]	P	2	1
Dr. Ed Kwoka	P	3	0
Robert Laughlin	P	3	0
Kevin Macelhaney	P	3	0
Valerie Vitale	P	3	0
John Vratsinas	P	3	0
Non-Voting			
Commissioner Marlon Bolton [arrived @ 1:39]	P	2	1
Jeff Helyer, City of Oakland Park	P	2	1

Airport/City Staff

Rufus A. James, Airport Director
Carlton Harrison, Assistant Airport Director
Khant Myat, Project Manager II
Krystal Permanan, Airport Business Development Administrator
Chelsea Jones Finley, Airport Programs Manager I
Angelia Basto, Senior Financial Administrator
Linda Blanco, Senior Administrative Assistant
Yadsel Ortiz-Rodriguez, Senior Administrative Assistant

Others

Michael Ray
Brady Brewster, Broward County Aviation
Debbie Puia
Patrick Madden, Coral Ridge Isles Civic Association
Stephen Martin, AOPA
Fort Lauderdale Commissioner John Herbst
Lars Struck, Executive Jet Center
Travis Werth, JM Family Enterprises
Don Campion, Banyan Air Service

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Volchek called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was determined to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **September 28, 2023**

Motion made by Mr. Gilbert, seconded by Mr. Laughlin, to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2023, meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

VOTING ITEMS

1 FDOT Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Design of Runway 9 Parallel Taxiways Extension - \$320,000

Mr. Myat provided the presentation and recommended Board approval.

Mr. Johnson and Commissioner Bolton arrived at 1:39.

Motion made by Mr. Vratsinas, seconded by Dr. Kwoka, to approve the FDOT Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Design of Runway 9 Parallel Taxiways Extension – in the amount of \$320,000. Motion passed unanimously.

2. FDOT Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Runway 9-27 Pavement Rehabilitation - \$440,771

Mr. Myat provided the presentation and recommended Board approval.

Motion made by Dr. Kwoka, seconded by Mr. Gilbert, to approve the FDOT Public Transportation Grant Agreement for Runway 9-27 Pavement Rehabilitation in the amount of \$440,771. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Florida Power & Light Company Utility License Agreement – Parcels B, C, and D - First Industrial Harrisburg, L.P.

Mr. James provided the presentation and recommended Board approval.

Motion made by Ms. Vitale, seconded by Mr. Ash, to approve the Florida Power & Light Company Utility License Agreement – Parcels B, C, and D - First Industrial Harrisburg, L.P. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Airport Zoning Regulations – Interlocal Agreement Between Broward County and City of Fort Lauderdale

Mr. James provided the presentation and recommended Board approval.

Motion made by Mr. Vratsinas, seconded by Mr. Ash, to approve the Airport Zoning Regulations – Interlocal Agreement Between Broward County and City of Fort Lauderdale. Motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ITEMS

A. Noise Compatibility Program

Ms. Permanan reported that in October, there were 16 aircraft exceeding the decibel level at Noise Monitor 2 on runway 9, and there were two complaints [two separate flights of the same G3 with a hush kit.] The aircraft owner was notified and encouraged to follow noise abatement measures. Ms. Permanan said, in October there were a total of 17 noise complaints from residents.

Ms. Permanan provided an update on the status of Noise monitor 1. They were awaiting a special breaker and after it passes inspection, it will be powered and activated. She anticipated the inspection by December 22, 2023, FPL power supply by January 5, 2024 and a complete noise monitor installation by January 12, 2024.

Dr. Kwoka and Mr. Harrison discussed the fact that the G3 that generated the noise complaints was based here and obviously used the Airport regularly but did not always generate noise complaints. Mr. Harrison said the plane was aware of the complaints and they were doing the best they can.

B. Development and Construction

Mr. Harrison reported the Midfield Run-Up Expansion Project was progressing nicely and the next milestone would be the concrete forms that would support the blast fences. Next week, they will begin the Runway 9 Runup Area Relocation and Southend Taxiway Intersection Improvements, incorporating the new FAA design standards. This project will extend Taxiway Echo out farther, to a 90-degree turn. The displaced runup area will be relocated near Echo 3. Dr. Kwoka asked if there were additional safety concerns regarding the inevitable stacking of different size planes and Mr. Harrison said they would probably route smaller planes to Alpha and larger ones to Echo for traffic control. Mr. Ash agreed this would come down to traffic management and would be up to the ground controller to determine the sequence. He stated that this should not be a problem.

Operational data was included in the Board's packet.

C. Arrearages

There are currently no rent or fuel flowage arrearages.

D. Communication to the City Commission

None

E. Other Items

Mr. James introduced Chelsea Jones Finley, the new Airport Programs Manager I.

I. 5th Annual Uptown 5K on the Runway Recap

Ms. Permanan said on November 18, the Airport partnered with the Trustbridge Hospice Foundation for this event. The funds raised help Trustbridge Hospice provide childcare, music and pet therapy, grief counseling, and more. She reminded everyone that November was also National Aviation History Month and two years ago, Mayor Trantalis

had signed a proclamation recognizing November as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. Ms. Permanan said this year, they had hit a historic achievement in funds raised, more than \$116,000, the most to date. She noted that this event allowed the Airport to showcase its FXE's dedication to community welfare and their commitment to positively impacting the local community. Ms. Permanan said the Airport looks forward to their continued partnership with Trustbridge Hospice Foundation and to the 2024 Uptown 5K on the Runway. She congratulated Ms. Vitale, her team, and everyone at FXE who participated.

Dr. Kwoka asked about City Hall moving facilities to FXE property. Commissioner Herbst described challenges to the construction of the new Police Station, which led to relocating Police personnel to the Kaplan building at 1515 West Cypress Road. There had been discussion regarding moving more police personnel to 1901 West Cypress but that did not work out. They subsequently moved IT staff only to 1901 West Cypress Road. He thought that administration, the back office staff and Human Resources did not need to be in some of the most expensive real estate that we have in the City of Fort Lauderdale and will continue to advocate for that. The old City Hall will be torn down.

Commissioner Herbst reported the Infrastructure Task Force was conducting visioning workshops regarding "the future of work." He stated they must consider how many people need to be in a downtown office building to be productive. He was also concerned about the impact of Artificial Intelligence on our workforce and he would rather rent space over the next five years to see how this work-from-home experiment all pans out.

Commissioner Herbst stated that once the existing City Hall building was demolished, he wanted the City to maintain ownership of the parcel but suggested it could be leased to a developer to build on. He remarked on the need for housing, and wanted any residential use considered for the property to include a significant affordable/workforce housing component. He thanked the Board members for their service to the City.

Mr. Laughlin congratulated Mr. James and the whole team on a very successful year.

Mr. James wished everyone Happy Holidays.

II. Public Comments

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING DATE: Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 1:30 P.M.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

VOTING ITEM 1

DATE: January 25, 2024
TO: Aviation Advisory Board
FROM: Rufus A. James, Airport Director
BY: Khant Myat, Project Manager II/Airport Engineer
SUBJECT: Public Transportation Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the Design of Aviation Equipment Safety Building Pavement Rehabilitation Project



The Aviation Equipment and Safety Building (Maintenance Building) along with its 60,000 square foot apron was constructed in 2011. The Maintenance Building houses the Airport's maintenance staff and equipment. The apron primarily serves as a staging area for larger airport equipment but can also handle emergency relief aircraft. Based on the 2023 Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Airport Pavement Evaluation Report, the pavement condition index (PCI) for the Maintenance Building pavement is 62 and in fair condition making it a good candidate for proactive maintenance. The rehabilitation of the pavement could extend the asphalt life up to an additional 15 years.

The scope of work includes but is not limited to consultant and design fees, survey, geotechnical costs, permitting, construction inspection, material testing, mobilization, maintenance of traffic, erosion control, milling, paving, sodding, and all materials, equipment, labor, and incidentals required to complete the project.

Based on the estimated design cost of \$108,750, FDOT is providing a Public Transportation Grant Agreement in the amount of \$87,000 for up to 80% of the projected design costs, with the Airport providing 20% of the design cost in the amount of \$21,750.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approving the Public Transportation Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation in the amount of \$87,000 for the design of the Aviation Equipment Safety Building Pavement Rehabilitation Project.

**VOTING ITEM 1
EXHIBIT 1**



Project Area – For Reference Only

VOTING ITEM 2

DATE: January 25, 2024
TO: Aviation Advisory Board
FROM: Rufus A. James, Airport Director
BY: Khant Myat, Project Manager II/Airport Engineer
SUBJECT: Public Transportation Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the Design of Taxiway Echo Pavement Rehabilitation Project



Taxiway Echo is one of two parallel taxiways south of Runway 09-27 that provide ingress/egress to the runways and various aprons around the Airport. The western half of Taxiway Echo has been repaved in conjunction with other projects, however the eastern half of the taxiway underwent its last major rehabilitation over 20 years ago. Based on the 2023 Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Airport Pavement Evaluation Report, the pavement condition index (PCI) for the section of Taxiway Echo from Runway 13-31 to Taxiway Charlie is 52 and is in fair to poor condition. The report recommended that this taxiway section undergo an asphalt mill and overlay in the next four years to ensure pavement integrity. Additionally, this project was identified and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration in the 2019 Airport Master Plan.

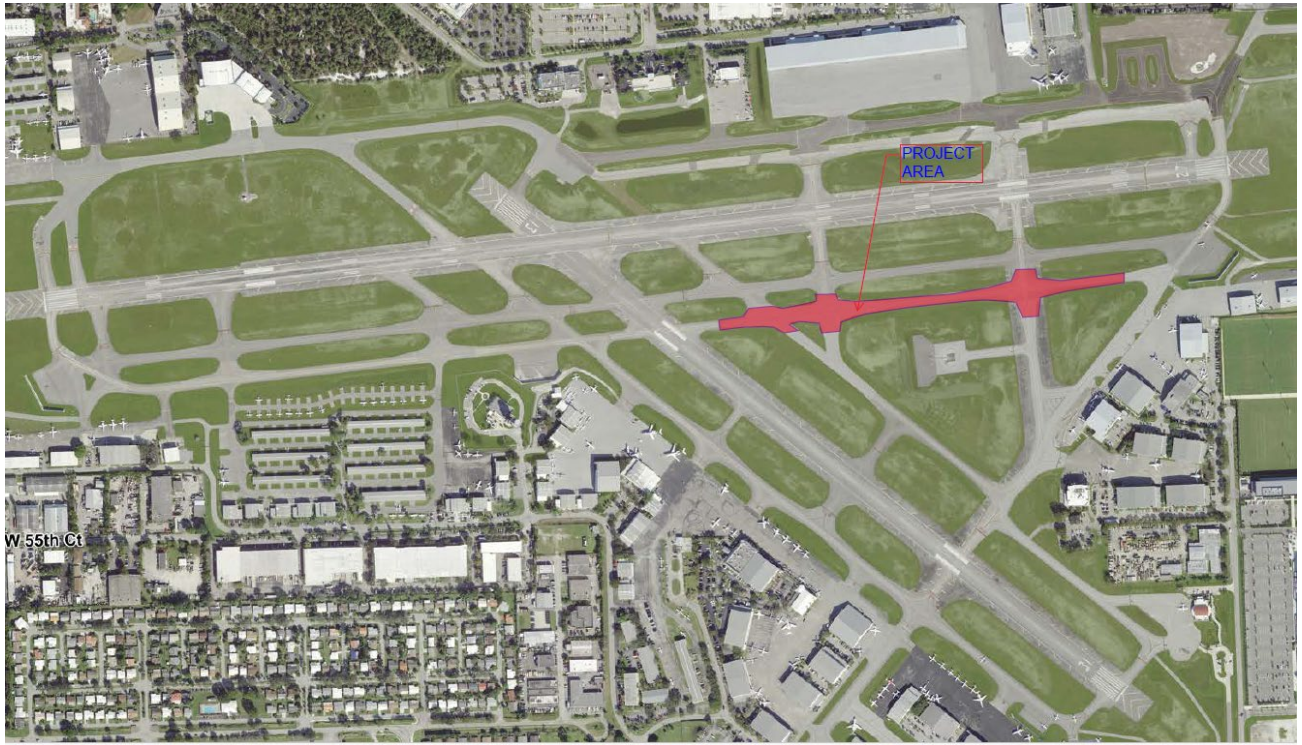
The scope of work includes but is not limited to consultant and design fees, survey, geotechnical costs, permitting, construction inspection, material testing, mobilization, maintenance of traffic, erosion control, milling, paving, sodding, and all materials, equipment, labor, and incidentals required to complete the project.

Based on the estimated design cost of \$256,000, FDOT is providing a Public Transportation Grant Agreement in the amount of \$204,800 for up to 80% of the projected design costs, with the Airport providing 20% of the design cost in the amount of \$51,200.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approving the Public Transportation Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation in the amount of \$204,800 for the design of the Taxiway Echo Pavement Rehabilitation Project.

**VOTING ITEM 2
EXHIBIT 1**



Project Area – For Reference Only

UPDATE ITEM A

DATE: January 25, 2024
TO: Aviation Advisory Board
FROM: Rufus A. James, Airport Director
VIA: Chelsea Jones Finley, Airport Programs Manager
BY: Krystal Permanan, Airport Business Assistance Administrator
SUBJECT: Executive Airport – Noise Compatibility Program

This update comprises the reports for November and December 2023.

In November 2023, Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) generated 894 jet departures from Runway 9. Noise Monitor #2 registered six aircraft that exceeded the recommended limit of 80 decibels; however, these events did not generate a noise report from the community. A total of 43 noise reports from residents were generated for November 2023 (Exhibit 1).

In December 2023, the Executive Airport generated 693 jet departures from Runway 9. Noise Monitor #2 registered two aircraft that exceeded the recommended limit of 80 decibels; however, these events did not generate a noise report from the community. A total of 22 noise reports from residents were generated for December 2023 (Exhibit 1).

Staff will continue responding to resident concerns and analyzing aircraft operations to ensure safe and efficient operations at FXE.

UPDATE ITEM A EXHIBIT 1

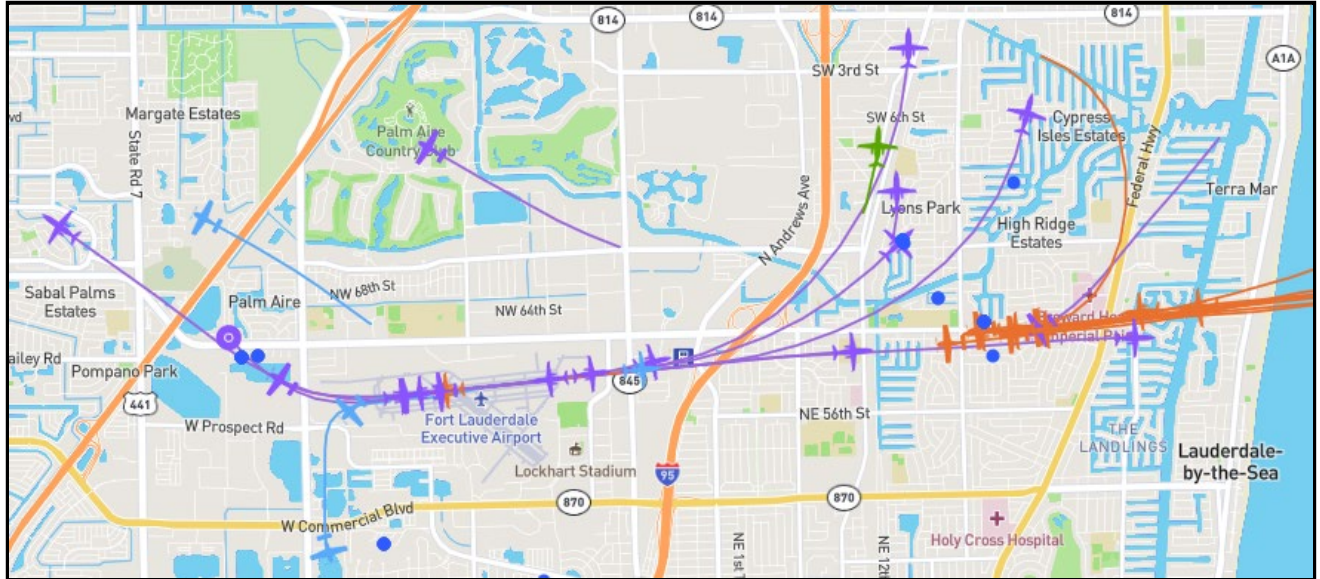


Diagram I: November 2023 Noise Reports

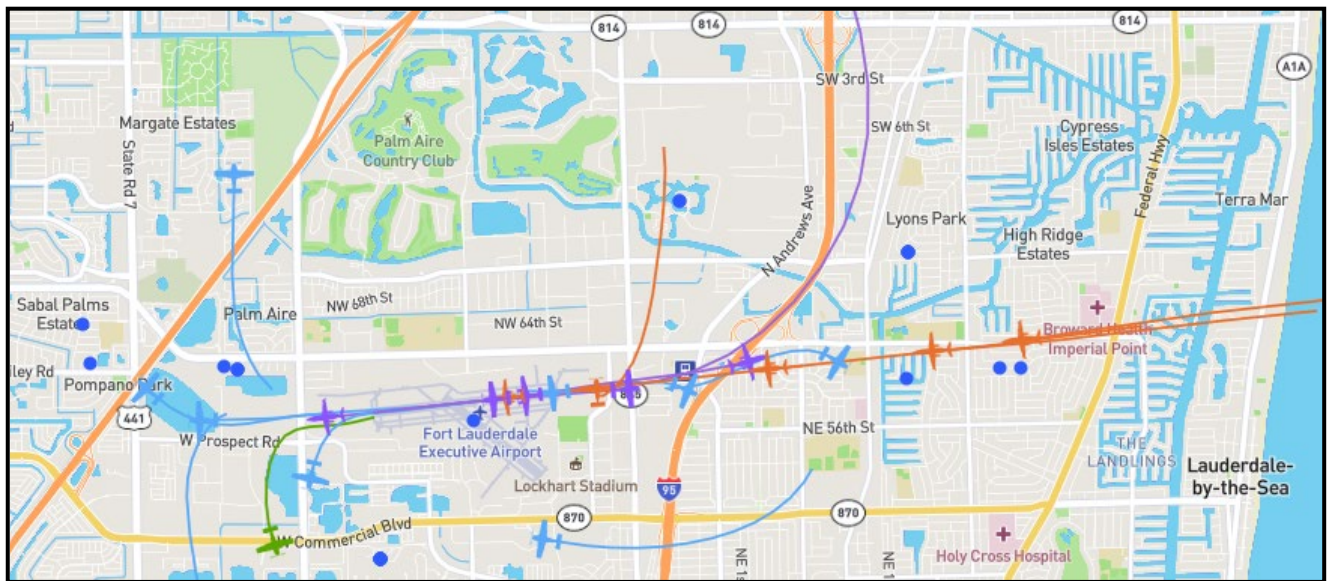


Diagram II: December 2023 Noise Reports



COOPERATIVE NOISE ABATEMENT EFFORT

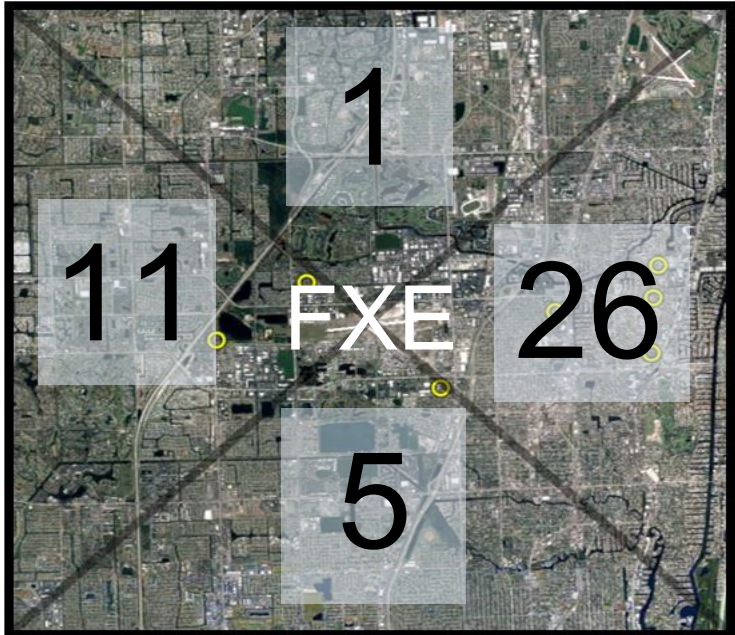
Month of November, 2023

January 25, 2024

Jet Departures and Noise	Oct-23	Nov-23
Total Departures	1188	1171
Runway 27 Jet Departures	389	273
Runway 9 Jet Departures	792	894
Runway 13/31 Jet Departures	7	4
Runway 9 Jet Departures, I-95 Turns	508	519
Runway 9 Jet Departures %, I-95 Turns	64%	58%
Jet over 80dB at Monitor #1	*	*
Jet over 80dB at Monitor #2	16	6

Noise Reports	Oct-23	Nov-23
Number of Households - FXE Noise Only	10	10
Number of Reports - Jets	11	24
Number of Reports - Propellers Single-Engine	5	15
Number of Reports - Propellers Multi-Engine	1	3
Number of Reports - Helicopters	0	0
Number of Reports - Unknown	0	1
Number of Reports - Unmatched	0	0
Number of Reports - DT1	0	0
Total Number of Noise Reports for FXE	17	43

Noise Reports By Quadrant



Note: The equipment for Noise Monitoring Terminal (NMT) # 1 was removed on 12/12/2020 for deconstruction of Broward County's water tank tower. Broward County to reinstall noise monitor upon coordination with FXE, FPL and Envirosuite.



COOPERATIVE NOISE ABATEMENT EFFORT

Month of December, 2023

January 25, 2024

Jet Departures and Noise	Nov-23	Dec-23
Total Departures	1171	1279
Runway 27 Jet Departures	273	583
Runway 9 Jet Departures	894	693
Runway 13/31 Jet Departures	4	3
Runway 9 Jet Departures, I-95 Turns	519	427
Runway 9 Jet Departures %, I-95 Turns	58%	62%
Jet over 80dB at Monitor #1	*	*
Jet over 80dB at Monitor #2	6	2

Noise Reports	Nov-23	Dec-23
Number of Households - FXE Noise Only	10	11
Number of Reports - Jets	24	7
Number of Reports - Propellers Single-Engine	15	12
Number of Reports - Propellers Multi-Engine	3	3
Number of Reports - Helicopters	0	0
Number of Reports - Unknown	1	0
Number of Reports - Unmatched	0	0
Number of Reports - DT1	0	0
Total Number of Noise Reports for FXE	43	22

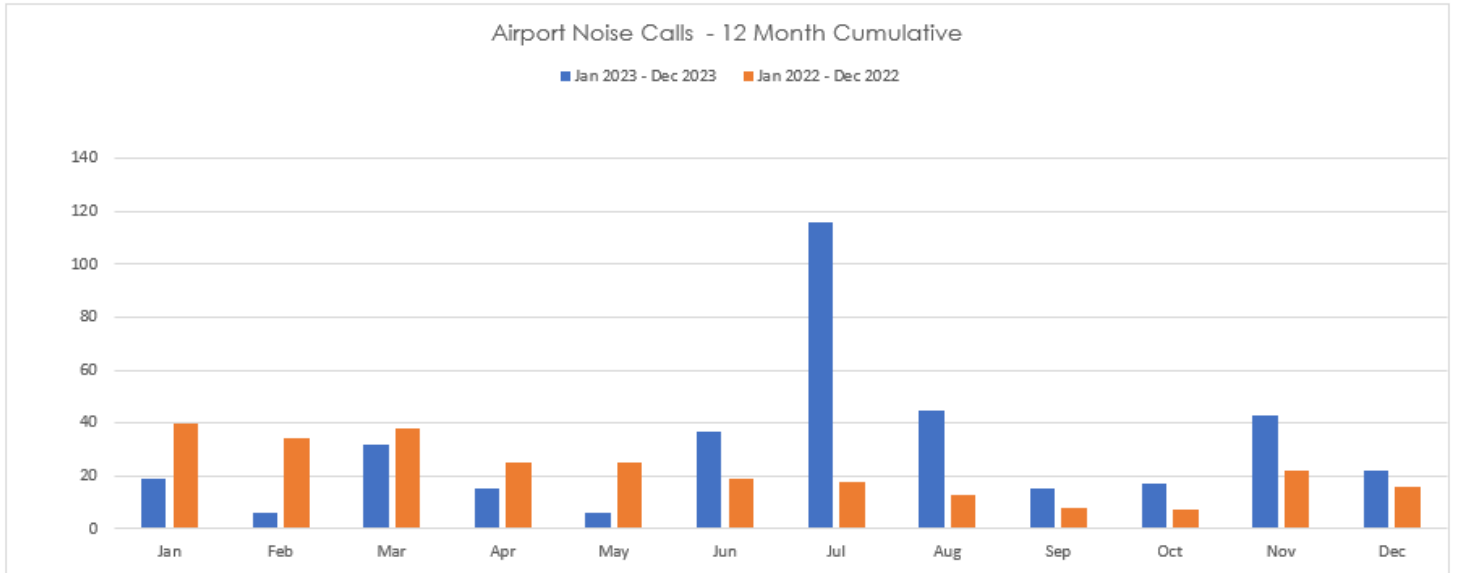
Noise Reports By Quadrant



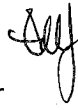
Note: The equipment for Noise Monitoring Terminal (NMT) # 1 was removed on 12/12/2020 for deconstruction of Broward County's water tank tower. Broward County to reinstall noise monitor upon coordination with FXE, FPL and Envirosuite.

Airport Noise Calls - 12 Month Cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Jan 2023 - Dec 2023	19	6	32	15	6	37	116	45	15	17	43	22	373
Jan 2022 - Dec 2022	40	34	38	25	25	19	18	13	8	7	22	16	265



DATE: January 25th, 2024
TO: Aviation Advisory Board
FROM: Rufus A. James, Airport Director
BY: Benjamin J. Gatti, Airport Operations Specialist
VIA: Carlton M. Harrison, Assistant Airport Director
SUBJECT: Development and Construction



12474 – FXE Mid-field Run-up Area Project

The Airport Master Plan was approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in January of 2019. During the master plan process Airport stakeholders expressed a strong desire for a larger maintenance run-up area in the midfield at the Airport to accommodate additional aircraft. The master plan update recommended the expansion of the midfield run-up area from the existing 54,000 square feet to 89,000 square feet with the addition of jet blast deflectors. The project is partially funded by a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) grant in the amount of \$2,116,400.

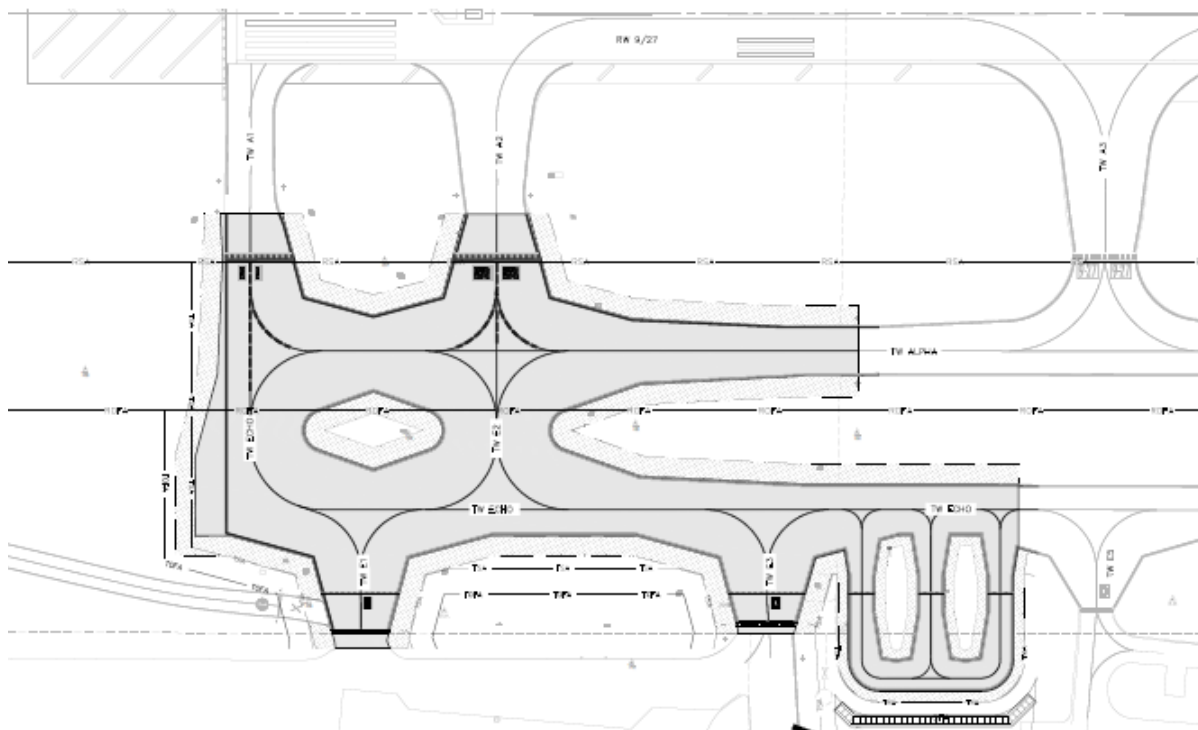
Project mobilization began on Monday, September 4, 2023, with Phase 1 construction activities starting on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. The project duration will be approximately seven months. During construction, the Mid-field Run-up Area will be closed to all operations. An alternate run-up area for jets and large turbo-prop aircraft has been established on Taxiway Echo, between Taxiway November and Taxiway Delta or as designated by Air Traffic Control. Two concrete pads on the west side have been formed and poured. Lime rock on the north and south sides have been graded and compacted. The two retention ponds on the northeast and southeast sides have been re-graded due to rain.

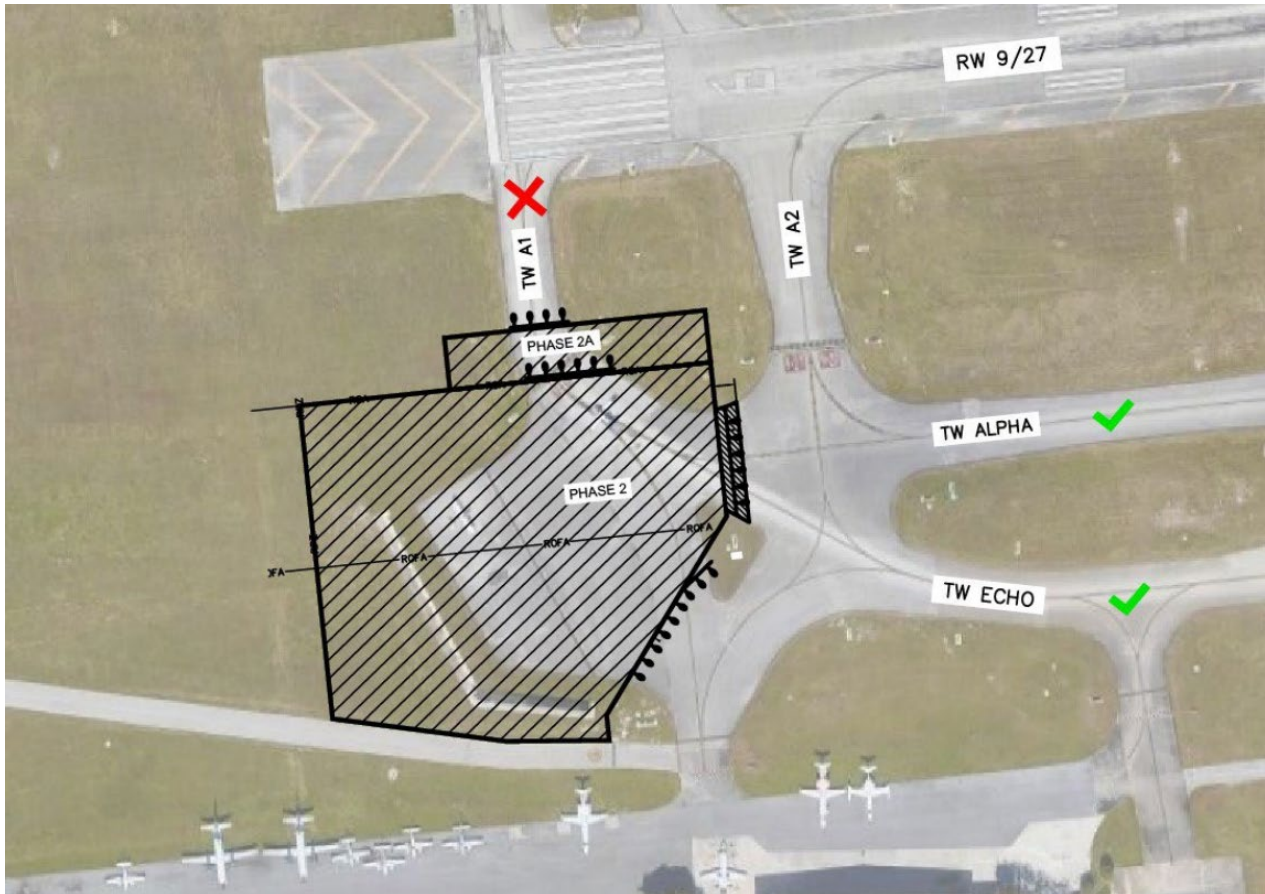


12708 – FXE Runway 9 Runup Area Relocation and Southend Taxiways Project

The purpose of the Runway 9 Runup Area Relocation and Southend Taxiways Project is to realign Taxiway Echo to adhere to modern FAA Advisory Circular standards for taxiways that intersect a runway. The new standard for such areas is for a more squared design, creating a perpendicular intersection. This project will also involve the relocation and redesign of the Runway 9 Runup Area. The Runway 9 Runup Area will be relocated to the southside of Taxiway Echo between Taxiway Echo 3 and Taxiway Echo 5. The layout of the new Runup Area will adhere to recent updates in the FAA Advisory Circular and will have a three-lane layout similar to the existing Runway 27 Northside Runup Area.

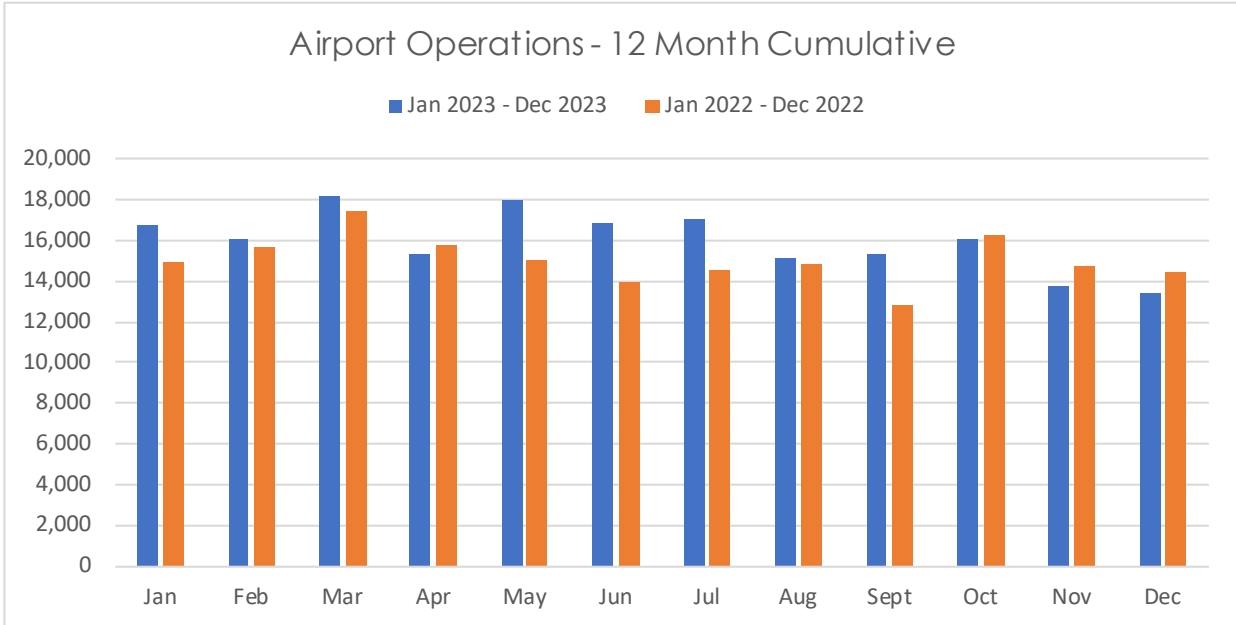
Phase 1 construction began on December 11, 2023. The project contract amount is \$3,979,833 including an FAA grant of \$3,581,849 and an FDOT grant of \$198,991, with the remaining 198,993 being funded by FXE. The Runway 9 Runup Area has been closed and partitioned off with low profile barricades. The existing blast fence has been removed. The concrete slab under the existing blast fence has been removed and re-grading is in progress. On Monday, January 8th 2024, Phase 2 of the project began. This phase will include the closure of Taxiway Alpha 1. Aircraft requiring a full-length Runway 9 departure can request to line up at Taxiway L on the north side or back taxi from Taxiway Alpha 2.





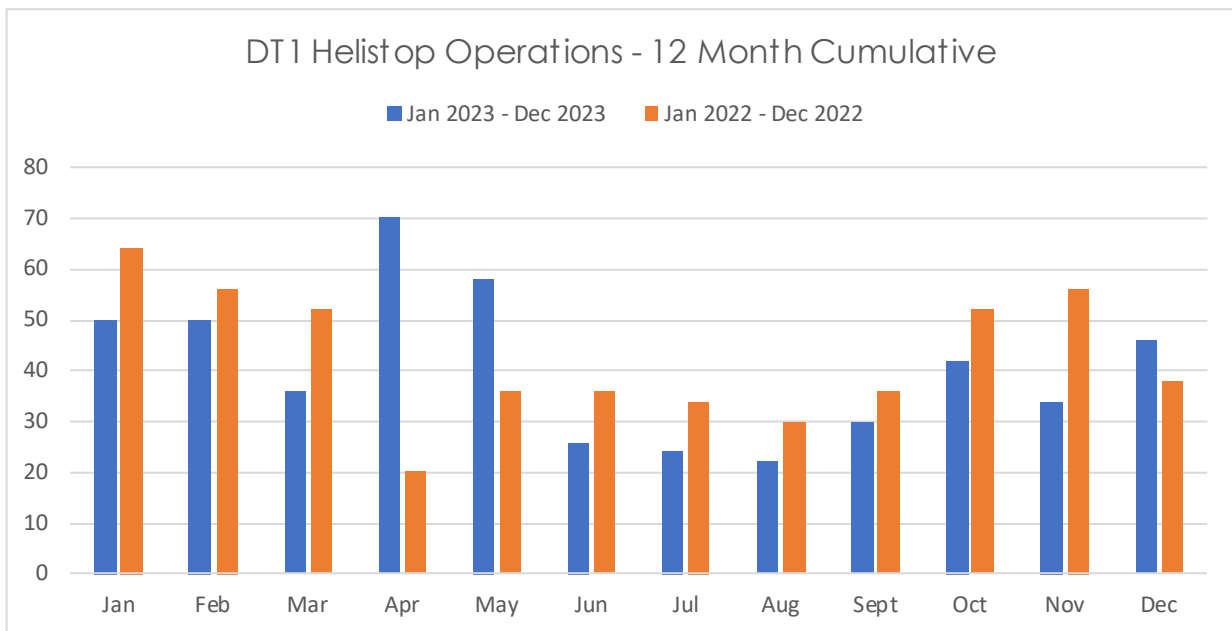
Airport Operations - 12 Month Cumulative

Jan 2023 - Dec 2023	16,790	16,037	18,158	15,321	17,980	16,802	17,016	15,145	15,294	16,020	13,692	13,431	191,686
Jan 2022 - Dec 2022	14,980	15,680	17,474	15,760	15,044	13,895	14,505	14,870	12,822	16,286	14,738	14,451	180,505



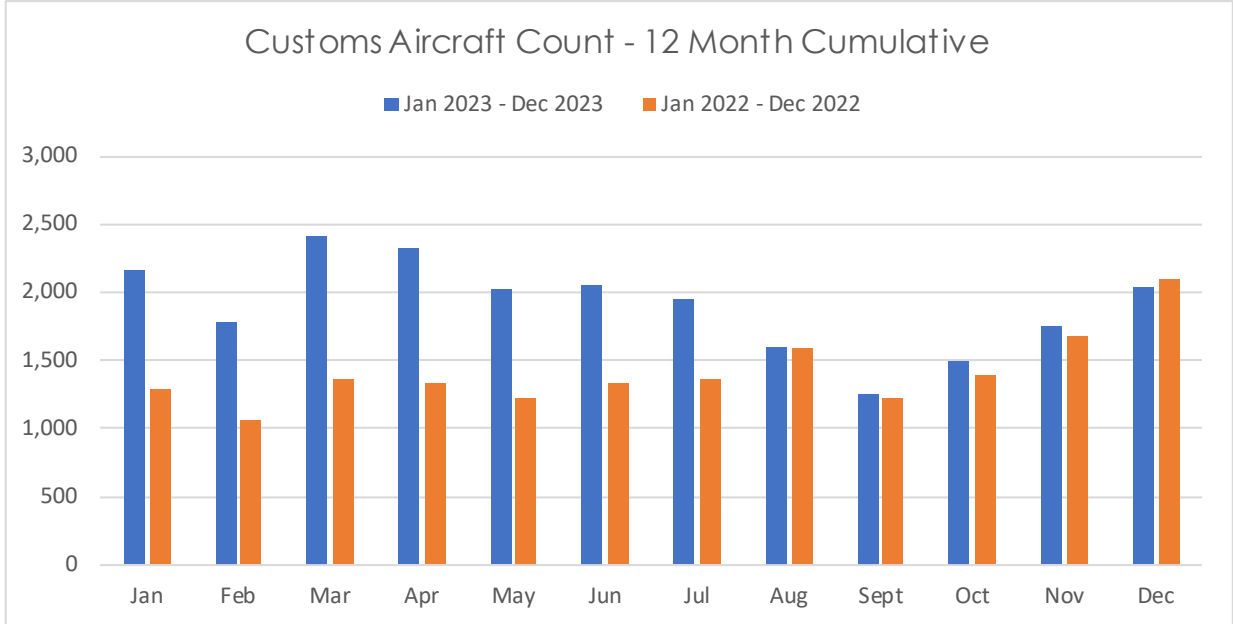
DT1 Helistop Operations - 12 Month Cumulative

Jan 2023 - Dec 2023	50	50	36	70	58	26	24	22	30	42	34	46	488
Jan 2022 - Dec 2022	64	56	52	20	36	36	34	30	36	52	56	38	510



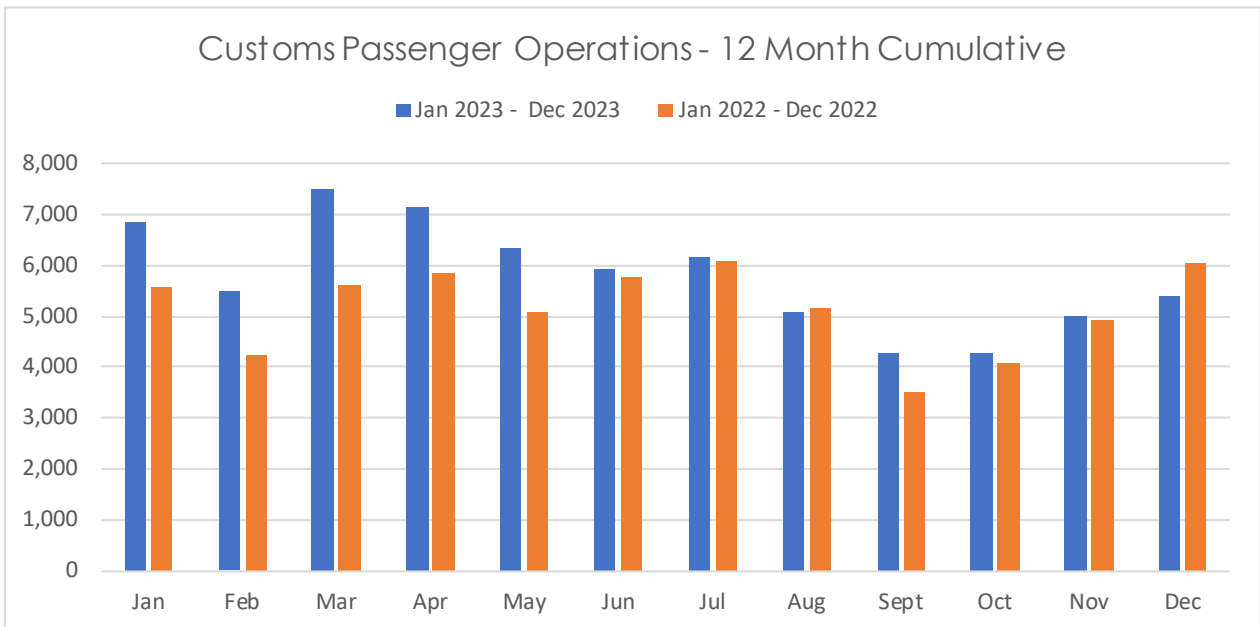
Customs Aircraft Count - 12 Month Cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Jan 2023 - Dec 2023	2,162	1,787	2,410	2,316	2,021	2,055	1,951	1,603	1,257	1,488	1,749	2,041	22,840
Jan 2022 - Dec 2022	1,278	1,053	1,364	1,324	1,223	1,325	1,354	1,591	1,226	1,391	1,674	2,090	16,893



Customs Passenger Operations - 12 Month Cumulative

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Jan 2023 - Dec 2023	6,850	5,498	7,489	7,158	6,338	5,947	6,169	5,070	4,284	4,299	5,016	5,420	69,538
Jan 2022 - Dec 2022	5,560	4,256	5,623	5,856	5,076	5,787	6,115	5,167	3,532	4,081	4,945	6,040	62,038

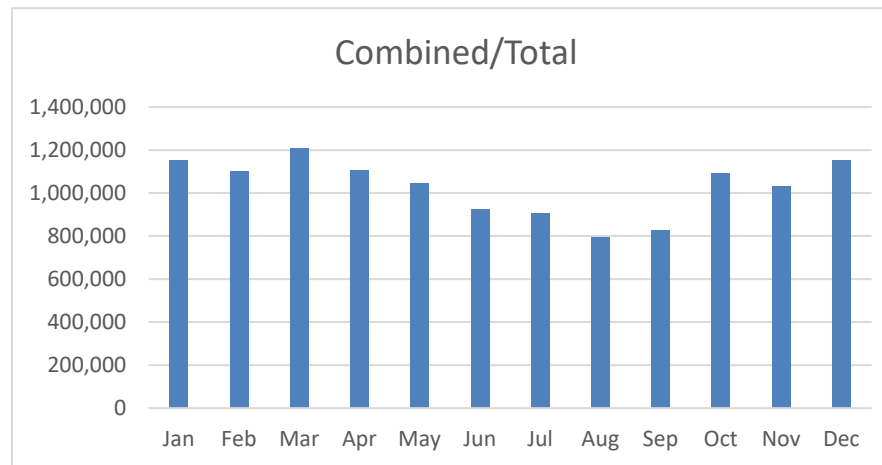
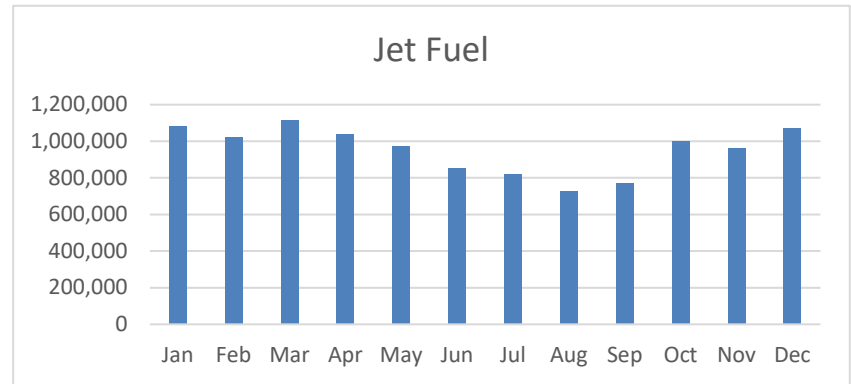
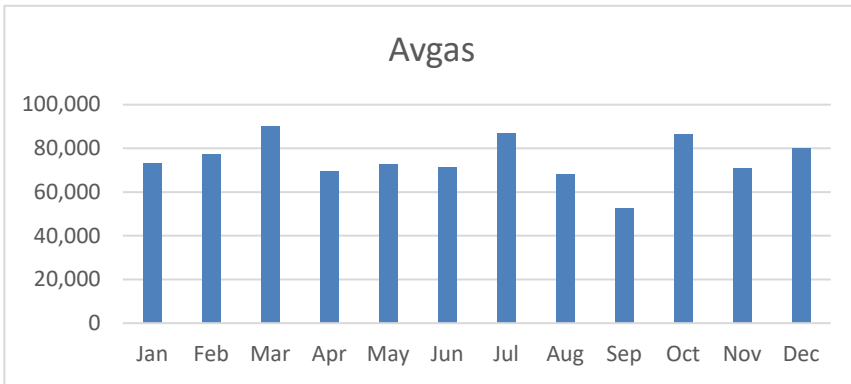


Date	Alert Level	Aircraft Type	Description
11/6/2023	I	Piper PA-28 Cherokee	Flat Right Main
11/16/2023	II	Cessna 402	Loss of Engine Power
11/22/2023	II	Piper PA-28 Cherokee	Alternator Failure
11/28/2023	II	Beechcraft Baron 58	Left Engine Out
11/28/2023	II	Mitsubishi MU-2	Low Oil Pressure

Date	Alert Level	Aircraft Type	Description
12/3/2023	II	Cessna 172 Skyhawk	Loss of Engine Power
12/3/2023	II	Challenger 601	Emergency Fuel Indicator
12/6/2023	I	Cessna 208 Grand Caravan	Brake Failure
12/8/2023	II	Piper PA-28 Cherokee	Smoke In Cockpit
12/10/2023	III	Cessna 172 Skyhawk	Runway Excursion
12/21/2023	I	Piper PA-28 Cherokee	Alternator Issue
12/21/2023	II	Hawker 800	Aileron Failure
12/29/2023	I	Cessna 172 Skyhawk	Flat Right Main
12/31/2023	II	Piper PA-28 Archer	Alternator Failure

2023 Monthly Fuel Flowage (Gallons)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Avgas	73,336	77,070	90,175	69,322	72,673	71,179	86,936	67,957	52,499	86,295	70,605	79,918	897,965
Jet	1,080,235	1,024,544	1,117,812	1,037,514	972,855	853,810	817,910	727,727	771,803	1,002,734	962,778	1,071,288	11,441,010
Total	1,153,571	1,101,614	1,207,987	1,106,836	1,045,528	924,989	904,846	795,684	824,302	1,089,029	1,033,383	1,151,206	12,338,975



UPDATE ITEM C

DATE: January 26, 2023
TO: Aviation Advisory Board
FROM: Rufus A. James, Airport Director
SUBJECT: Arrearages



Rent

There are no arrearages to report.

Fuel Flowage

There are no arrearages to report.

UPDATE ITEM E.I.

DATE: January 25, 2024
TO: Aviation Advisory Board
FROM: Rufus A. James, Airport Director
VIA: Carlton Harrison, Assistant Airport Director
BY: Chelsea Jones Finley, Airport Program Manager
SUBJECT: 2024 Achievements in Community Excellence Awards



On January 18, 2024, the Executive Airport hosted its annual Achievements in Community Excellence Awards (ACE). The event served as a platform to express gratitude to those pivotal in helping the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) achieve its goal of becoming the premier global general aviation airport. The ceremony acknowledged the contributions of Airport businesses, employees, pilots, organizations, and individuals to the Airport and for making a difference in our community.

Two awards were presented at this year's event: Green Champion and ACE Award.

The ACE Award, presented to individuals, businesses, or organizations for outstanding service to the Airport and community, recognized Atlantic Aviation as the 2024 honoree. Atlantic Aviation is a paragon of excellence and innovation in the aviation industry, showcasing commitment to safety, innovation, infrastructure development, and environmental sustainability. As one of the four fixed-based operators at the Executive Airport, Atlantic has exhibited a profound sense of responsibility through reinvestments and active community involvement. In March 2023, the company unveiled its cutting-edge 7,000-square-foot executive terminal at the Executive Airport, a testament to its \$14 million capital expenditure for Airport expansion. Furthermore, Atlantic Aviation has consistently demonstrated support for FXE through event participation and has proactively addressed community concerns by advocating voluntary Noise Abatement procedures to mitigate aircraft noise.

The Green Champion Award is presented to a company, group, or individual that has significantly impacted the Airport, the City, and our neighbors by exhibiting exceptional commitment to green initiatives. The 2024 Green Champion honoree is WeatherTech, a manufacturing company renowned for integrating sustainable best practices into its operations and infrastructure improvements. This directly aligns with the City and FXE's sustainable goals to minimize environmental impact. WeatherTech's green initiatives include removing bags from its products, reducing paper usage, transitioning to fuel-friendly vehicles, integrating highly efficient LED lighting to supplement natural light in all buildings, and more. WeatherTech has invested \$6 million to make its hangar at FXE environmentally sustainable. Beyond achievements in business and aviation, WeatherTech's owner, David MacNeil, is a dedicated philanthropist, actively contributing to the Fort Lauderdale community.

The distinguished guest speaker at this year's event was Captain Barring Irving, owner of Flying Classroom, a Miami non-profit organization. Flying Classroom is devoted to closing the STEM awareness and skills gap by utilizing aviation to foster competencies in students, preparing them for rewarding careers in aviation and other fields. Captain Irving took the opportunity to announce the soft launch of a plan to collaborate with FXE in bringing Flying Classroom to the Executive Airport. The aviation industry will face a significant professional shortage by 2026 due to an aging workforce and increased demand, which presents challenges in swiftly filling the gaps left by retiring pilots and other aviation personnel. Addressing this shortage requires strategic workforce planning, investment in training programs, and collaborative efforts among industry stakeholders to ensure air travel's ongoing safety and efficiency. FXE endorses and supports this initiative.

The 2024 ACE Awards event was held at the WeatherTech hangar, and more than 100 guests were in attendance, including the City of Fort Lauderdale's Mayor, City Manager, Assistant City Managers, elected officials, former and current Aviation Advisory Board members, and staff.