





-  Commercial Service Airports
-  General Aviation Airports

## FLORIDA AIRPORTS:

As the statewide voice for aviation, the Florida Airports Council looks forward to being a strategic partner with federal policymakers as we advocate for issues that matter to Florida's airports and the passengers they serve.



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## FLORIDA AIRPORTS COUNCIL 2025 Federal Priorities

KEEPING FLORIDA'S AIRPORTS SOARING





Florida remains a top international destination for travel and commerce, and Florida’s airports are proud to play an important role in supporting our state’s thriving economy. Both individual residents and the entire state benefit from Florida’s 128 public airports and the global connections and economic value each one provides.

### On-Airport Economic Impact: A Hub for Business & Jobs

Florida’s airports are both world-renowned travel hubs and vital business hubs. With **5,000+ businesses** operating on-site with **over 164,000 direct employees**, airports generate **\$77.2 billion** in economic activity. That’s jobs, innovation, and steady business growth — all taking off at Florida’s airports.


### Visitor Economic Impact: The Gateway to Spending Power

Florida’s airports welcome tens of millions of travelers who fuel local businesses. Visitor spending from out-of-state air travelers pumps **\$94.4 billion** into our state’s economy and supports more than **766,700 jobs** across hospitality, entertainment, and retail. More visitors mean more dollars flowing into Florida communities.

### Off-Airport Air Cargo Impact: The Engine of Global Trade

Air cargo isn’t just about moving packages — it’s about moving Florida’s economy forward. Industries that rely on air cargo contribute **\$150 billion** in economic output and support nearly **701,000 jobs**. As a global gateway, Florida’s airports connect businesses to markets worldwide, keeping commerce in motion.

To keep attaining great heights and meeting the needs of tomorrow’s business environment, Florida’s airports must continue to be developed, improved, and expanded.

  
Annually, Florida’s airports are an economic engine generating **\$336 BILLION** in statewide benefits

  
**Nearly 2 in 5** Florida visitors arrived by air

  
Florida saw over **140 MILLION** visitors in 2024

  
More than **2 MILLION JOBS** created by Florida airports

## 2025 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### TRANSPORTATION POLICY

#### ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY (AAM)

FAC **SUPPORTS** the safe integration of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) technologies into the National Airspace System. Innovations such as drones and vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft will transform urban mobility, cargo delivery, and emergency response, and a strong regulatory framework is needed to ensure safety while maintaining operational efficiency. This has already been partially established by the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, which includes key provisions to support AAM infrastructure and operations.

#### FUNDING FOR VETERANS’ CAREERS IN AVIATION: OPPOSITION TO PROVISIONS IN H.R. 7323

FAC **OPPOSES** provisions in H.R. 7323 that limit veterans’ access to aviation careers. The Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2024 proposes a lifetime cap of \$115,749 on flight training benefits for veterans. While the cap is slightly higher than previous proposals, it still restricts veterans’ ability to pursue aviation careers, especially at a time when the industry is facing a critical pilot shortage. We join general aviation groups in strongly opposing this bill, and wish to highlight its harmful effect on veterans seeking opportunities in aviation.

### DHS POLICY

#### AVIATION WORKER SCREENING

FAC **OPPOSES** burdensome TSA amendments that impose unnecessary screening requirements on aviation workers, driving up costs and causing operational delays without clear security benefits. A balanced approach is essential to maintaining safety while ensuring efficiency, and airports need the flexibility to uphold security standards without disrupting daily operations. Florida Airports Council **SUPPORTS** effective screening measures that enhance security without placing undue burdens on airports and workers.

#### CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP)

FAC **SUPPORTS** increasing staffing and upgrading technology for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to reduce wait times and improve airport efficiency. Staffing shortages and outdated systems currently cause long delays, affecting both airport operations and passenger experience. Enhancing CBP operations is essential to maintaining U.S. airports’ global competitiveness and creating a smoother experience for all travelers.

### APPROPRIATION

#### AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

FAC **SUPPORTS** increasing Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding and expanding project eligibility to help airports meet growing demands. To adequately meet emerging needs, AIP needs continual investment to support runway rehabilitation, land acquisition, and airfield lighting, while broader eligibility will allow for sustainability and technology upgrades. The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 proposes raising AIP funding to \$4 billion annually, ensuring that airports can enhance infrastructure and operation capabilities.

#### PFAS TRANSITION PLAN

FAC **SUPPORTS** federal assistance for transitioning to fluorine-free firefighting foams. Current requirements mandate PFAS-containing foams, which pose environmental and health risks. Shifting to safer alternatives is essential but costly and would require federal support for this transition, which aligns with sustainability goals, reduces long-term liability, and lessens the financial strain on airports already facing budget challenges.

#### CONTRACT TOWER SYSTEM

FAC **SUPPORTS** continued funding for the Contract Tower Program to ensure safe and efficient air traffic control at smaller airports. These airports are vital to regional economies yet often operate with limited resources, and contract towers — staffed by employees of private companies — make air traffic services possible at smaller airports. Sustained funding will help maintain safety, enhance operational efficiency, and strengthen the overall aviation network. Contract towers will continue to play a critical role in keeping air travel safe and accessible nationwide.