

AVIATION & AIRPORTS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
June 3, 2026

Board Members in attendance: Bruce Pelly, Chair
Douglas Sanders
Humberto Rivera
Michael E. Wood
Jerry Harrison
Martin Klein
Ronald M. Ash

Representing Department
of Airports:

Laura Beebe, Airports Director
Gary M. Sypek, Senior Deputy Director
Megan Davis, Airport Properties Director
Lauren Scott, Deputy Director of Planning & Development
Nicole Hughes, Director of Marketing & Communications

I. Call To Order

Chairman Bruce Pelly called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2026 meeting. A motion was made and approved.

III. Airport Update

Airports Director Laura Beebe reported that Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) continues to experience passenger growth, although growth rates have begun to slow following several years of significant increases. She noted that February, March and April were strong months, with March 2026 becoming the busiest month in the airport's history for passenger traffic.

Director Beebe stated that PBI experienced a slight decline in passenger traffic for the first time since the post-pandemic recovery period but remains confident that the airport will continue to see incremental gains over the coming year. General aviation activity remained stable throughout the winter season.

IV. Air Service & Marketing Update

Director Beebe discussed the cessation of Spirit Airlines service at PBI on May 2, 2026. She noted the impact on PBI was minimal, as Spirit operated only one route to Atlantic City (ACY). Breeze Airways has announced plans to begin service to Atlantic City in December 2026.

Additional air service announcements included Southwest Airlines adding seasonal service to Denver during the holiday period and Delta Air Lines launching seasonal service to Los Angeles and Columbus. Director Beebe stated that the airport will continue working with airlines to encourage year-round service opportunities and noted that PBI's route network continues to expand westward.

Director of Marketing and Communications Nicole Hughes reported on recent marketing and community engagement initiatives. The division hosted the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Facility in April, which was well attended by community leaders and stakeholders.

Director Hughes also highlighted American Airlines' special Kentucky Derby charter flight, which received strong community interest. Promotional efforts included outreach through local chambers of commerce, social media channels and western community newsletters.

Additional community outreach activities included participation in TSA food distribution efforts during the federal government shutdown and the annual Airport Adventures program, in partnership with JetBlue Airways. Due to the program's success, the Department plans to continue the partnership next year. Board Member Jerry Harrison asked to have AAAB members notified if/when there are future food distribution events.

Director Hughes also reported that the current airport art exhibit will remain on display through September. The most recent artist reception will be the final public reception held before construction activities impact available event space.

Current advertising efforts include targeted campaigns with Expedia, digital and paid social media advertising supporting key air service markets, a WRMF radio commercial and promotions highlighting service to destinations including New York (JFK), Chicago, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh.

V. Construction Update

Deputy Director of Planning & Development Lauren Scott provided an update on ongoing and future capital improvement projects. The Concourse B Expansion project continues to progress, with interior work for Phase 2 substantially complete. Planning and design efforts for Phase 3 have evolved in recent months and interior construction activities are continuing.

The ARFF Facility project recently broke ground following demolition of the previous structure and completion of foundation work.

The Parking Revenue Control Building replacement project has completed foundation construction and utility work is underway. The Taxiway M Rehabilitation and Canal Culvert Project continues to progress, with the canal now fully culverted.

Director Scott reported that the Turnage Boulevard Rehabilitation project is advancing quickly through overnight construction operations. Damaged pipe infrastructure beneath the roadway intersection has been replaced and paving activities are underway.

The Short-Term and Long-Term Garage Repair project remains active, with Level 4 of the garage currently closed for waterproofing and restriping.

General aviation projects include Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) replacements at North County Airport (F45) and Palm Beach County Park Airport (LNA), pavement rehabilitation projects and beacon and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) replacements. These projects will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

Upcoming projects include Runway 10L-28R Rehabilitation, elevator replacement projects beginning this fall, Air Handler Replacement Phase 2, Terminal Connector Phase 1, air cargo ingress and egress improvements, the Airport Master Plan update and the Concourse C Roof Replacement project.

At the general aviation airports, planning continues for the Southside Redevelopment project at LNA. The LNA Master Plan forecast has been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, and the first public meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2026. The Runway 14/32 Extension project at North County Airport (F45) was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on June 2, 2026.

VI. Real Estate & Concessions Update

Airport Properties Director Megan Davis reported that concession transition activities continue throughout the terminal.

A temporary retail location has opened in Concourse B to support passengers during ongoing construction. Seaside Mercantile has also opened a new kiosk location.

Construction continues on Coastal Cask and Worth Avenue Market, as well as a new Dunkin location. Additional concession improvements remain underway as part of the airport's phased concession redevelopment program.

VII. Operations & Maintenance Update

Senior Deputy Director Gary Sypek provided the Operations and Maintenance update on behalf of the division.

He reported that the airport has concluded the most recent season of VIP and Presidential (POTUS) visits, with operations expected to resume in the fall.

Operations staff continue to coordinate closely with ongoing construction projects to ensure safe and efficient airport operations. The division recently completed the annual FAA FAR Part 139 inspection in early May and continues preparations for FIFA World Cup-related activities.

Additional safety and security initiatives include participation in a Department of Homeland Security Joint Vulnerability Assessment, completion of the annual Transportation Security Administration (TSA) inspection and a recent Runway Safety Action Team meeting.

Maintenance personnel continue to support numerous airport improvement projects and are focused on roadway beautification, vegetation management and maintaining a high level of customer service throughout airport facilities.

VIII. Matters by the Public

There were no public comments.

IX. Board Member Comments

Board Member Ronald Ash asked whether airport staff attend airline headquarters meetings to promote new air service opportunities. Director Beebe responded that airport representatives regularly meet with airline executives and provide business cases supporting potential new routes and expanded service. She noted that while the final decision rests with the airlines, PBI has been successful in attracting new service opportunities, as demonstrated by the airport's continued passenger growth.

The Concourse B construction tour for AAAB members, scheduled to take place following the meeting, was postponed due to weather and will be held at the next meeting.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 9, 2026.