

AVIATION & AIRPORTS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
March 6, 2026

Board Members in attendance: Bruce Pelly, Chair
Sophie M. Gaeta, Vice Chair
Douglas Sanders
Humberto Rivera
Michael E. Wood
Elizabeth McBride
Martin Klein
Ronald M. Ash

Representing Department
of Airports:

Laura Beebe, Airports Director
Gary M. Sypek, Senior Deputy Director
Megan Davis, Special Projects Manager
Lauren Scott, Deputy Director of Planning & Development
T.K. Stewart, Deputy Director of Operations & Maintenance
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. The board members introduced themselves, including newly appointed members.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the Dec. 10, 2025 meeting. The minutes were approved with a correction to reflect that Martin Klein and Michael E. Wood were present at the previous meeting.

III. Airport Update

Airports Director Laura Beebe reported that passenger traffic continues to show incremental gains but that growth is beginning to slow following the significant increases experienced since the COVID-19 pandemic.

She discussed the impact of the recent Spirit Airlines bankruptcy and noted that airlines are competing for market share at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL). This competition may result in lower fares and additional capacity at FLL, which could affect passenger growth at Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) during the coming months. While seat capacity at PBI has slightly declined, Director Beebe noted that this does not necessarily indicate a decline in passenger traffic.

Director Beebe also reported that the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the establishment of a Customer Facility Charge (CFC) and Transportation Facility Charge (TFC) to support a Consolidated Rental Car Facility (ConRAC) at PBI. The initial CFC will be \$6 per transaction and the TFC will be \$5 per transaction day, with collection beginning May 1, 2026. Director Beebe noted that the project will consolidate rental car operations, help meet future demand and reduce roadway congestion within the terminal area.

Director Beebe further reported that the BCC approved redevelopment of the CareerSource Palm Beach County site into a hotel.

IV. Air Service & Marketing Update

Director Beebe reported that PBI has experienced substantial growth in passenger traffic since the pandemic, though traffic levels are beginning to stabilize.

She noted that some destinations will experience typical seasonal frequency reductions during the spring and summer schedule. However, certain routes will see additional service, including increased frequency to Houston (IAH) and year-round service to Chicago-O'Hare (ORD) on United Airlines. Several seasonal routes will also temporarily suspend service during the spring.

Director of Marketing and Communications Nicole Hughes reported that the division's efforts during the fiscal year have focused largely on media relations and social media engagement. She noted that

the division has already received more media inquiries this fiscal year than during the entirety of the previous year.

Current marketing initiatives include advertising tied to Spring Training and targeted promotions supporting key markets and routes. Advertising placements include digital campaigns, television and streaming platforms, radio and paid social media promotions. The division will begin promoting summer air service routes in the coming weeks.

V. Construction Update

Deputy Director Lauren Scott provided an update on current and future construction projects.

The Concourse B Expansion project continues to progress. Phase 2 includes interior improvements such as terrazzo flooring, lighting and painting, as well as installation of mechanical chilled water piping in preparation for Phase 3. Phase 3 represents the final phase of the project and will include expanded holdroom, concession and circulation space, along with two additional gates. Gate B7 reopened on Dec. 23, 2025, and the project is expected to be completed in 2028.

The new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Facility was recently approved by the BCC and is scheduled to begin construction in March 2026. The facility will be located south of the air traffic control tower.

Additional current projects include Parking Revenue Control Building replacement, Taxiway M Rehabilitation and Culvert project, Turnage Boulevard Rehabilitation, Short- and Long-Term Garage Repairs Phase 3, AWOS replacements at North County (F45) and Lantana (LNA), General Aviation Pavement Rehabilitation projects at PHK, LNA and F45, and Central Airfield Improvements project.

Future projects include Runway 10L-28R Rehabilitation, Elevator replacement projects, Terminal Connector Phase 1 (Skylight and Roof Replacement), Air Cargo ingress and egress improvements, Airport Master Plan update, and additional infrastructure projects including electrical, mechanical and roof improvements. General aviation airport projects include the LNA Southside Redevelopment Phases 3 and 4, LNA Beacon Replacement, PHK Fuel Farm Replacement, LNA Master Plan update and the Runway 14/32 extension at North County Airport (F45).

VI. Real Estate & Concessions Update

Special Projects Manager Megan Davis reported that the Properties Division continues working with concessionaires Paradies Lagardère and HMSHost on the ongoing concession transition program.

Phase 1 concessions in Concourse B and the West Main Terminal are currently in the design and permitting stages. Planned locations include The Palms Market, Avocado Grill, Bit & Bridle, Rocco's Tacos & Tequila Bar, Starbucks and Palm Beach Illustrated.

In Concourse C and the East Main Terminal, upcoming concessions include Worth Avenue Market, Dunkin, Coastal Cask featuring Bulleit Bourbon, Pistache French Bistro and Seaside Mercantile. Phase 2 concessions remain in the design phase.

Director Beebe noted that concession transitions are occurring in phases to ensure that not all locations are closed simultaneously, with temporary locations used when necessary.

VII. Operations & Maintenance Update

Deputy Director T.K. Stewart provided the Operations and Maintenance update. He reported ongoing support for VIP and POTUS visits and extensive coordination related to airport construction projects.

Operations staff are supporting the Taxiway M canal project, which requires temporary taxiway closures and the Concourse B Expansion project, which currently has four gates closed.

Additional activities include coordination for general aviation pavement improvement projects at LNA, F45 and PHK, completion of annual FDOT inspections at the general aviation airports and preparation for the upcoming FAA FAR Part 139 annual inspection at PBI.

Maintenance teams continue to support various ongoing airport maintenance projects.

Deputy Director Gary Sypek announced that Director Stewart is retiring at the end of the month.

VIII. Matters by the Public

There were no public comments.

IX. Board Member Comments

Board Member Ronald Ash asked about the possibility of constructing an air traffic control tower at North County Airport (F45). Director Beebe stated that an application has been submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration requesting funding.

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2026.