

**Airport Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 3:30 PM
Boeing Conference Room, Airport Center**

Members Present

Bailey Gorin Anchondo
Marco Barros
Roger Dillard
Jeff Fair
Mark Fessler, Chairman
Pat Garrison
John Grisell
Marsha Hendler, Secretary
Earl Jackson, Jr., Vice Chairman
Marc Miller
Joshua Nash
Jeremy Roberts
MaryAnne Schweers
James Velesky
Melissa Williams

Members Absent

Cliff Herberg
Deborah Omowale Jarmon
Mark Provost
Juanita Sepulveda

Staff Present

Tim O’Krongley, Deputy Director
Jenny Garcia, Acting Board Liaison
Katinka Howell, City Attorney
Ryan Rocha, Assistant Director
Michael Garnier, Assistant Director
Sam Rodriguez, Development
Administrator
Sabrina Alonzo, Executive Secretary
Margaret Perez, Paralegal

Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Fessler at 3:35 p.m. The roll call was taken by the Board Liaison. A quorum of at least 10 members was present for the meeting.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Commission member Jeff Fair motioned to approve the minutes for the June 18, 2024 meeting. Commission member Marco Barros seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comments:

The Board Liaison confirmed no public comment had been received.

Items for Briefing and Possible Action:

2. Ground Transportation Center Phase 1 and Terminal A Ground Load Facility Projects Update

Public Comments:

There were no public comments received on this item.

Discussion and Motion: Introduced by Deputy Director Tim O’Krongley, Development Administrator – Capital Improvement Program Sam Rodriguez briefed the Airport Advisory Commission members on two major projects underway at the San Antonio International Airport. Mr. Rodriguez’s presentation provided a background on the development of both the Terminal A Ground Load Facility (TA GLF) and Ground Transportation Center (GTC) projects, including the most recent approvals by City Council to move the projects forward.

TA GLF: City Council recently approved a change order that expanded the scope of work to include a second baggage belt and additional work for additional aircraft parking as well as more passenger enhancements. The project will be complete in 2025.

GTC: The timeline for this project, originally part of the Terminal Development Program, was accelerated to provide for additional public parking spaces to be constructed early. City Council approved the release of the solicitation documents in November 2024 following a briefing during the FY 2024 Aviation Budget. Mr. Rodriguez noted that the goal was to have the facility opened before the new terminal was complete.

Throughout the presentation, Commission members asked questions. In response to a question about the lifespan of a typical parking garage, Mr. O’Krongley noted it was 25 to 35 years. Commission Member Jeff Fair appreciated the fact that the project had been part of earlier community meetings regarding the Terminal Development Program. Commission Member John Grisell was reassured by Aviation staff that the GTC would include areas for limousine service. Mr. Fair asked about space for self-driving cars. Mr. Rodriguez responded that the infrastructure for that, and other technologies, would be placed in the GTC and utilized if enough of a demand required it. Assistant Director Ryan Rocha noted that the new facility would prove 25% more parking spaces.

Vote: No motions were made by the Commission.

3. Visitor Pass Program at the San Antonio International Airport

Public Comments:

There were no public comments received on this item.

Discussion and Motion: Assistant Director Ryan Rocha presented to the Commission with an overview of a new program that would allow non-traveling visitors to apply for a pass to accompany travelers to, or greet travelers when they exit, their gates. He noted the Department hoped to have the program in place before Thanksgiving 2024. Commission Member Marsha Hendler asked about the maximum number of passes to be released, which he replied would be 50 per day. He noted that the Department would bear the cost of any fees for the program and that information on the program would be on the website. In response to a question about communicating to the public, he did note that his team was working with the department’s marketing program to provide information.

4. Commission Member Announcements

Public Comments:

There were no public comments received on this item.

Discussion and Motion: Commission Member Marco Barros shared pictures of his recent trip that included a stop at the new terminal at Portland International Airport. As part of his presentation, he highlighted features that he thought were attractive to passengers and would be nice in the new terminal facilities at San Antonio International Airport. Mr. Barros noted the airport felt like a park with the living trees. Deputy Director Tim O’Krongley noted that the airport did a great job providing a sense of place and that the new terminal would be similar in providing passenger enhancements.

Commission Member Jeff Fair suggested a topic for the October meeting – Holiday Parking and the Associated Marketing. Chairman Mark Fessler suggested that the next meeting be held at Million Air Hangar and include a tour of the facilities.

5. Deputy Director’s Report

Public Comments:

There were no public comments received on this item.

Discussion and Motion: Deputy Director Tim O’Krongley shared the following information to the Commission:

1. Deputy Director Tom Bartlett was retiring from the City of San Antonio after more than 45 years in the aviation industry.
2. Customer Experience Administrator Karen Ellis was retiring from the City of San Antonio after 8 years at the airport to serve as the Assistant General Manager – Chief Customer Experience Officer at Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport
3. Viva Aerobus would launch year-long service to Guadalajara starting this December four times a week.
4. The City was awaiting the announcement from the Department of Transportation regarding American Airlines application for non-stop service to Reagan National Airport.
5. Condor had a strong first year of service and would restart their service in May 2025, twice a week.
6. The City recently received \$6.5 million in grant funds for its airfield program and TA GLF project.

Mr. O’Krongley introduced Assistant Director Michael Garnier who gave a brief overview on the recently approved Airline Use and Lease Agreement that City Council approved the previous year. Mr. Garnier noted the new agreement provided the airlines with a voice in the new terminal program, an opportunity for revenue-sharing, and, pre-approval for improvements to Terminal A in the amount of \$200 million and Terminal B in the amount of \$100 million. Commission members asked if an airline doesn’t sign what does it mean. City Attorney Katinka Howell replied that they would still operate at the airport but not under the terms of the agreement, meaning they would not be able to participate in the revenue sharing and pay additional fees. In response to a question about airline incentives, Ms. Howell noted that the lease agreement was separate from the air service development incentive program which waives fees for new service and is applicable to non-signatory and signatory airlines.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 4:32 p.m.