



Media Release

May 26, 2015

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Receives \$5.7 Million in Federal Funding for Airport Operational Safety Project

U.S. Congressman David Jolly announced St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) was awarded a total of \$5.745 million in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant funds, including \$4.45 million in Discretionary Funds and \$1.29 million in Entitlement Funds, for its Apron Hardstand Project. The project includes the demolition, removal, and replacement of the existing pavement surfaces used to park commercial aircraft.

"The St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport is an economic engine and tremendous asset to Pinellas County, helping local businesses while providing a gateway for families and tourists looking to visit the area. In fact, passenger service at the airport continues to grow, reaching record levels. This federal grant will help ensure the airport is prepared to safely meet the demand for increased service in the coming years," states Congressman David Jolly (FL-13).

Pinellas County Commission Chairman John Morroni adds, "PIE generates over \$752 million in economic impact annually. The airport continues to do an excellent job in managing its capital programs and maximizing its financial sustainability. We appreciate Congressman Jolly's leadership in securing these funds."

"First and foremost are safe operations at PIE. We are experiencing tremendous growth and are proud of our strong safety record with 10 consecutive years of FAA inspections finding no discrepancies. Our capital planning and financial planning are critical to our safe operations. With this funding, we are well positioned to complete this project on a timely basis," states Airport Director Tom Jewsbury.

The Airport Improvement Program (AIP) is a federal grant-in-aid program that represents a major source of funding for airport development and planning. Funding is supported from user fees, fuel taxes and other revenue sources. Each fiscal year, the FAA apportions Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds into major entitlement categories. The FAA distributes the remaining funds to a discretionary fund. Airports throughout the nation compete for discretionary funding to help finance capital improvement projects. The FAA distributes these funds to projects that best carry out the purpose of the AIP, with highest priority given to safety, security, reconstruction, capacity and standards.

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