



Media Release

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) Awarded Transportation Security Administration Grant and Federal Aviation Administration Grants for Airport Projects

This week, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners approved a \$753,979 grant from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for the design of a new Checked Baggage Inline System (CBIS) for St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE). An additional grant for \$300,000 was already awarded from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Aviation Funding. The total design cost is \$1,070,302. The new automated baggage system will replace the current stand-alone system and provide for faster baggage processing, expediting the screening of checked passenger baggage.

Airport Director Tom Jewsbury stated, "Congressman David Jolly was essential in helping to introduce language that would permit the TSA to fund new inline baggage inspection systems. Until recently, the TSA had been focusing their efforts and financial resources to renovate older baggage systems at larger airports that were among the first to install such baggage systems. Congressman Jolly's support in obtaining TSA grant funding will enable PIE to design and ultimately construct a new baggage system that will accommodate Allegiant Air's current and future baggage processing needs."

PIE is also receiving a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the second phase of major airfield improvements for the Taxiway Rehabilitation project. The discretionary grant from the FAA is \$3,997,608, FAA entitlement funding is \$3,650,690, and FDOT Aviation funding is \$388,514. The total project cost (Design + Construction) is \$9,939,673. The project is part of a pavement rehabilitation program that will enhance airfield safety by rehabilitating the existing airfield pavements, constructing new pavements to meet new FAA design requirements, and update airfield lighting and signing to more energy-efficient systems. "Today's investment will strengthen our tourism industry here in Pinellas, improve the traveling experience here at the airport, and ultimately boost our local economy. This \$4 million investment is a reflection of the great work of the current PIE leadership and I'm excited about the growth opportunities here at our hometown airport" stated Congressman David Jolly (FL-13).

PIE is in its fourth year of double digit growth, breaking its all-time passenger record in 2015 with 1,645,402 passengers and is projected to serve 1.8 million in 2016. 95% of our passengers are served by Allegiant which began service at PIE in 2016 with 12 announced destinations, and recently announced its 53rd destination.

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- Over 3 years of double digit growth with over 1.6 million passengers in 2015!
- Serving 56 non-stop destinations and counting!
- PIE - The closest airport to #1 Clearwater Beach and #4 St. Pete Beach - ranked *Best Beaches in America* (Trip Advisor 2016)!

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