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Airport thankful for GDOT continuing assistance

The Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is a self-sustaining organization when it comes to generating revenue, but they rely on partnerships in order to complete their projects. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has been an organization the airport has relied on at times in order to successfully finish its projects.

The Department was instrumental in assisting to build the world's busiest passenger airport's fifth runway in 2006.

Louis Miller, aviation general manager, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, attended this month's Transportation Board meeting to update the Board on information about the airport and to express his appreciation to GDOT.

GDOT is now helping the airport expand their international terminal to accommodate passengers that frequent the facilities.

The Atlanta airport is preparing to open an international terminal with "a new front door for international passengers." The terminal is expected to open in the spring of 2012. The new I-75 access point to the terminal will require a large signage project to ensure motorists are aware of the changes.

GDOT will be helping to put a total of 113 new signs at 100 locations. The signs are to be unveiled in conjunction with the grand opening of the new terminal.

The assistance of GDOT has been very important in helping the airport make a smooth transition, according to Miller. The Department's past and present help has had an impact on the airport and the community.

While projects such as the international terminal will



Signage rendering courtesy of Graphic Illustration.

help the airport operate more efficiently, the anticipated expansion has also been essential in bringing businesses to the area.

"Companies are citing the airport as the number one reason for relocating to Atlanta," Miller said.

Miller informed Board members that Reliance Worldwide Corps and Health Lean Logistics are relocating their headquarters' to Atlanta from Australia and Spain respectively. Porsche is also relocating its North American headquarters next to the airport. The three companies will bring more than 200 jobs to the area.

The results from the partnership between the airport and the Department were very encouraging to Board members. The Board expressed an eager readiness to continue building the relationship.

Although the airport doesn't rely on taxpayer funding, its leadership recognizes the importance of working with public servant agencies, such as GDOT, to meet its private sector needs.

Several Board committees met in advance of the full Board Meeting. Meeting highlights are below:

Public Private Partnerships (P3): The committee was given status updates on the North by Northwest, Multi Modal Passenger Terminal (MMPT), Rest Areas/ Welcome Centers projects were given.

Administrative: The committee was given updates on the status of the Oversize/Overweight Permitting Board Rules and Outdoor Advertising Rules.

Program Delivery: A period of instruction was given on the Plan Development Process introduction and overview.

Statewide Transportation Planning: The committee received was given a presentation on the Stat Transportation Improvement Program.

Legislative: The committee received an updated on the impact truck weight limit increases would have on Georgia bridges. They were also informed on the status of Federal legislation.

Did You Know?

STATE FUND COLLECTIONS

Estimated motor fuel collection, fiscal year to date, is \$172,146,027.32 and is 3.04% over budget. This represents an increase of 6.69% over last year's collections of \$161,136,504.81 for the same time frame.

TOTAL GDOT EMPLOYMENT FIGURE

The total employment figure for the month ending August 31st is 4540.

DEPARTMENT EFFICIENCY UPDATE

The Efficiency Committee is evaluating the lease verses purchase equipment program, reviewing the outdoor advertising program and reviewing the oversize/overweight program.

Next Board Meeting: Atlanta, Georgia – October 20th