



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

A message from Lew Bleiweis, Executive Director: This is a milestone moment for AVL

Anniversaries and birthdays are happy occasions. They are times to celebrate where you've been, and look forward to where you're going.

In January 1961, AVL received its operating certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration. The terminal building was still under construction at that time (to open a few months later), and the community was excited to welcome the new commercial service airport. The new \$2.2 million airport, operated by the City of Asheville, consisted of 740 acres and a 25,060-square-foot building and a 6,500-foot runway.

Looking back to that first year, AVL served a total of 80,111 passengers. By 1966, we had doubled our annual passenger numbers. And by 2019 – we surpassed 1.6 million passengers – an extraordinary number.

Here we are, 60 years after we were officially recognized as a commercial service airport – and we're working on a major design project for a modernized and expanded terminal. We recently commissioned our new 8,001-foot runway, and we're nearing completion of an aircraft ramp expansion project to accommodate more planes.

We are served by four airlines – Allegiant, American, Delta and United – who fly nonstop routes to 19 destinations, several of which are major international hubs. The connectivity to and from AVL is significant – we are a leader among small-hub airports.

And while we're navigating a pandemic just like all of you – it will become a part of our storied history. It's important to take time to recognize where we've been and where we're going, and share our celebration with you along the way. So stay tuned. We'll be sharing stories and photos, and when the time is right, perhaps we'll be able to celebrate our 60th year in tangible ways with you.

Our 60-year history in western North Carolina is rich and meaningful, and we look forward to what's to come. Thank you for celebrating with us.

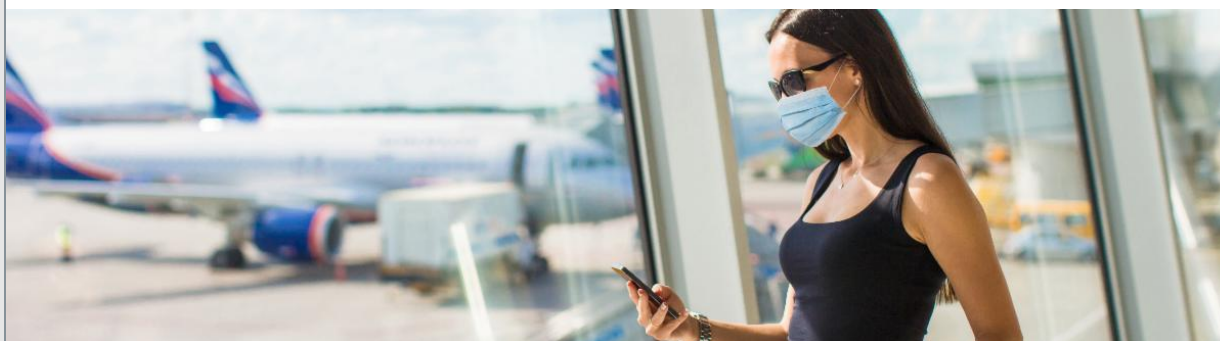


NEW REPORT REVEALS

AVL contributes nearly \$2 billion in economic impact

Asheville Regional Airport (AVL) contributes nearly \$2 billion to the region's economy and supports 12,520 jobs, according to a new report released by the N.C. Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation. The report also shows that of this economic impact, the airport contributes \$402 million in personal income, and \$65.4 million in state and local taxes.

[READ STORY >](#)



COVID UPDATE: NEW FEDERAL RULES FOR TRAVEL

What do they mean for you?

If you are planning to travel internationally, you must get a COVID test no more than 3 days before your flight back to the U.S. departs to determine if you are currently infected with COVID-19. You must receive your results before your flight departs, and have official documentation from the healthcare provider that shows your results. This documentation will be required by the airline as a requirement of boarding.

Those who have received a COVID-19 vaccine are still required to be tested prior to flying into the U.S. There are different rules for those who have recently recovered from COVID-19.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

Additionally, a new executive order requires that everyone in an airport and on airplanes must wear a mask.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

While most airports and all airlines already require mask use, the federal requirement may carry penalties for noncompliance. The specifics are still being determined, and we will report additional details on our website when they are available.

NEW ID REQUIREMENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina's REAL ID
For information go to NCREALID.GOV

IT'S THE YEAR FOR REAL I.D.

Make your appointment ASAP

REMINDER: The REAL I.D. deadline occurs in October 2021. This is when federal agencies will enforce the REAL I.D. Act, which requires a REAL I.D., U.S. passport or another federally approved identification to board commercial flights and enter secure federal buildings.

Because of the pandemic, most Department of Motor Vehicles require appointments. It's a good idea to make an appointment now – it could take several months to secure a time!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT REAL I.D. >](#)



NEW ROUTE TO LAS STARTS IN MARCH

Book that future trip today



TAKE OUR SURVEY

We want to know how you feel about air travel

Thank you for taking our 2-minute survey. We are keeping a finger on the pulse of our region's air travelers' sentiment about air travel.

[TAKE 2-MINUTE SURVEY >](#)

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