

#### PLANE TALK A message from the President & CEO

Thank you for taking a few moments to read my message regarding some important things happening at Asheville Regional Airport. I'm going to address three topics: our fast-growing utilization, parking constraints, and TURO hosts and users at the airport.

**The good news:** Asheville Regional Airport has more nonstop flights than ever before, and our region's residents are using the flights. We fully expect to end this year with the highest number of annual passengers in our history. We have advocated for years to bring excellent air service to WNC, and we thank you for flying from AVL.

**The unexpected:** the pace of growth has exceeded all projections. We work with industry consultants to conduct sophisticated growth projections to aid our facility and operational planning. The momentum of growth in our area, both from local fliers and visitors, has quickly exceeded projections.

**The growing pains:** We are on track and on point with medium-term infrastructure growth plans (we will share detailed information soon about the terminal expansion starting in 2023). But we also have more pressing needs that have arisen because of the explosive growth: specifically, customer parking has been a focus.

I am proud of the airport team for moving through the many steps necessary to construct and open our new Shuttle Lot last year, and our new overflow lot that opened this week. These two lots have added about 600 additional parking spaces for our customers. It should be noted that infrastructure development does not happen quickly in an airport environment due to many regulated steps, and the team pushed the projects forward well.

Next year, we will open an additional remote lot south of the terminal, with about 500 more spaces.

**TURO:** This topic may not apply to many of you, but we hope those who need to know will pay attention. The key takeaways: TURO may not operate at the airport at this time, and passengers who have rented a car through TURO need to be aware that TURO cars on airport property are subject to towing.

TURO is a peer-to-peer car rental service, much like the private vacation rental home industry, but for personal vehicles. TURO is operating in western North Carolina, with local residents using the platform to rent their personal vehicles.

Unfortunately, TURO (corporate) has refused to comply with airport operating rules and regulations for peer-to-peer rentals, so currently, it is illegal for TURO transactions to occur on airport property.

We realize that local TURO hosts may not quite understand this restriction, which is why I am including this topic today. Any person or organization that wants to do business on-site at the airport must be permitted, according to our rules and regulations, or be under a lease or operating agreement. This applies to all businesses operating at the airport, such as airlines, restaurants, car rental services, all ground transportation companies and peer-to-peer operators. **Operating agreements and permits create a level playing field for all, and the airport does not provide advantage to one provider over another.** 

TURO has refused to comply, so we are forced to ban all TURO operations at the airport at this time. This means that TURO vehicles are subject to towing from airport property, and owners can be issued citations or injunctions.

We are not privy to local TURO hosts' contact information, so we asked leaders at TURO to communicate this information with all of their hosts in our area. We don't know if this outreach has occurred, so we are using this platform to try to get the word out.

I encourage our local TURO hosts to reach out directly to TURO to encourage them to sign the operating agreement (as they have at many other airports) so you can legally operate at AVL. We would welcome you here, and hope you understand that we are required to ensure that all businesses are operating legally and fairly at the airport.

That's all for today. I will commit to communicating more frequently with updates about our local airport, and I thank you very much for flying from AVL. There are great things coming, and we'll get there together.



Blue skies,

Lew Bleiweis, President & CEO



### AMERICAN AIRLINES SEASONAL MIAMI RETURNING IN 2023

#### Daily flight will operate June-August

We are thrilled that American Airlines is continuing their summer seasonal nonstop service to Miami in 2023. The daily nonstop flight will operate on an E-175 aircraft and is available June 1 - August 14, 2023, now for sale.



### PLAN AHEAD FOR AIRPORT PARKING

New overflow lot now open

The growing air service at AVL is amazing for travelers.

You've most likely noticed that with this growth comes full parking lots at times. Good news – we've added more space for you with an additional overflow lot that opened this week, providing hundreds more parking spaces for travelers. This lot is served by our airport shuttle to and from the front curb and is open when the main lots are full.

Plan extra time to get to the airport, just in case your preferred lot is full. All you need to do is enter the Daily Lot, drive to the toll booth at the parking lot exit and obtain a permit and directions to the overflow lot. (Watch for LOT FULL signs with these instructions.)

Thank you for your patience as we continue to expand our infrastructure to meet growing passenger demand!



## THE RUNWAY 5K WAS SUPER FLY!

Funds raised for local aviation education

The AVL Runway 5K was a huge success and enjoyed by many. With 1,000 registered racers (a sold-out event), funds were raised to support the Western North Carolina Pilots Association Educational Foundation and the AB-Tech Aviation Fund. Both organizations award scholarships each year to local students pursuing careers and training in aviation.

**A special thanks to our sponsors:** Hensel-Phelps, Hunter Subaru, Avcon, Gresham Smith, Star 104.3, Elevation lofts Hotel, Parsons, Parrish and Partners, S&ME and Kelsan, Inc. We would also like to thank the WNC Ag Center and Broadmoor Golf Links for their partnership.





#### **BLUE RIDGE HONOR FLIGHT** Fall event brought smiles and tears

AVL is pleased to partner with Blue Ridge Honor Flight to support their amazing program for our region's war veterans. Here are a few photos from their fall flight, and the welcome home celebration at the airport.







# AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Getting ready to build a new airport terminal

Clearing has happened, a building has been removed, and grading is in full swing. Much of the construction work visible to the public at the airport is taking place so we are ready to build a new airport terminal.

Specifically, we are prepping a site for a new central energy plant that will serve the new airport terminal. We're also building a new electrical vault and will soon begin preparing space for temporary mobile buildings that we'll use for offices and airline gate space.

We will share detailed information in early 2023, as we near our official groundbreaking for the new airport terminal project.

### 25 NONSTOP DESTINATIONS - LET'S GO!

Planning a trip is now easier than ever. Airlines at AVL offer 25 nonstop destinations all over the country, including frequent daily flights to international hubs.





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