
The 2012 Annual Report

of the City of Columbus – Columbus Municipal Airport

City of Columbus





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This Annual Report is prepared for the citizens of the City of Columbus and the following 2012 public officials:

Columbus Mayor:
The Honorable Kristen Brown

Columbus City Council:
*Dascal Bunch
Ryan Brand
Frank Jerome
Frank Miller
Tim Shuffett
Aaron Hankins
Jim Lienhoop*

Aviation Board:
*James Stribling
Richard Gaynor
Dennis Tibbetts
Caleb Tennis
Erik DeBusk
Frank Jerome, City Council
Liaison*

Administrative Staff:
*Airport Director Brian Payne
Office Manager Melinda Finley
Maintenance Manager Ryan
Ritchison*





Executive Summary

Overview from Director Brian Payne

New faces and a new vision for the Airport took center stage in 2012 with the appointment of several new Commissioners and the hiring of several key Airport Personnel including Airport Director Brian Payne, Office Manager Melinda Finley, and Maintenance Manager Ryan Ritchison. This wave of fresh ideas will push the Columbus Municipal Airport to further expand for a brighter tomorrow.

Economic Development

While little development has occurred over the last few years on the landside, airside operations have continued to soar! Operation counts by Columbus Air Traffic Controllers have totaled 44,640 in 2012. This is the best year since 2006 and second best since 1999.

The 2012 Indiana Airports Economic Impact Study, an Aviation Association of Indiana (AAI) sponsored study in consultation with INDOT and CONEXUS Indiana, reports the Columbus Municipal Airport has a \$650 million dollar economic impact on the City of Columbus and the surrounding community.

Current leaders are continuing to take steps to further develop the Walesboro site as well as add additional aviation related businesses around the Airport grounds to continue to make the Airport fully self-sufficient!

The Airport recognizes the value of education to the City of Columbus and the Airport Board are continuing to work with the educational institutions and local leaders on developing the Airport Campus into a destination location for students both locally and regionally.

Airfield Improvements

The Airport rehabilitated one of the most used taxiways in 2012. Taxiway 'D' was originally paved in concrete and then was resurfaced with asphalt in the mid 80's. This project removed both the asphalt and the concrete taxiway and built it back up to be better than ever.

This project was made possible by a \$1.4 million dollar grant from the FAA, a 7.5% local match, and a 2.5% matching grant from the State. Local contractors including Milestone took full advantage of an opportunity to work close to home.



Our Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) establishes project priorities for future airport improvement needs. Some of the top items for which funding is needed in the future are: Installation of a Wildlife/Security Fence, Rehabilitation of Taxiways A3/A4; Construct Air Traffic Control Tower; Rehab Runway 14/32.

Air Traffic Control Tower

Columbus Municipal Airport was included into the FAA Contract Tower Program over a decade ago. At that time, the existing tower was over 40 years old and an agreement was made that a new tower would be in construction within 10 years. We have now passed that deadline and still the tower does not meet many of the most basic requirements including adequate restroom facilities, ADA access, wind loading, inadequate space, and proper heating and cooling.

The Airport has completed the siting study and environmental on the tower project and have determined how to move forward. Next steps include getting a design and searching for the proper funding avenues. Design is expected to take place in 2013 with the hope of bidding the project at the end of the year for a 2014 construction.

The Airport enjoyed another year of full funding in the ATC Cost Share Program in 2012. This represents around \$400,000 per year savings to the Airport for tower services.

Community Relations

The Airport continued involvement in events which promote community awareness and understanding of the roles and responsibilities that the Airport plays to the City of Columbus. Airport Administration again gave several school class tours, on-site and off-site presentations, participated in job shadowing programs, and continued the involvement in the Young Eagles and First Flight Programs.



Budget

Overview

The Airport ended the year within the allotted \$1,303,337 budget while also continuing to maintain a cash reserve sufficient to address issues that could not be foreseen but which may well have safety or time critical aspects. We continue to look for ways to cut expenses and increase efficiencies while maintaining the Airport's 3,000 acre infrastructure.

2013 Goals

Overview

The future potential of this Airport, both airside development as well as landside additions, is undoubtedly a driving force for the City of Columbus. The Airports current Board Members and Administrative staff have a vision on moving forward to greater heights.

Our continued support and interest in education, particularly aviation education, will make large strides in 2013 with the development of an aviation education program through Ivy Tech. Discussion on student housing are expected to continue and culminate into additional opportunities for Airport Campus students as well as potential growth from retail establishments.

The Airport will remain a self-sustaining entity by leveraging additional growth from current investors as well as looking at new avenues and opportunities. Agriculture will again play a lead role on maintaining a positive cash flow and we will look at possibilities for capturing additional revenue from that source.

This Airport has so much potential and it will be working together, hand in hand, with Local, State, and Federal officials to ensure that the Columbus Municipal Airport has a high flying future for years to come!

The following are just some of the strategic plan initiatives for 2013:

- Maintain FAA 139 Compliance
- Develop Walesboro Industrial Park
- Re-design of terminal and landscaping
- Extend People Trail around Airport property



- Additional aviation youth programs
- Add aviation related businesses
- Add student housing on Airport property
- Expand Arts District to include Airport
- Drive Campus Development Plan
- Establish college courses in Aviation