



TWEED NEW HAVEN AIRPORT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING - HYBRID
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Reed, John Picard, Linda Hennessey, Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Carlos Eyzaguirre, Mark Sklarz, Ken Dagliere, David White, Jesse Phillips, Richard Jacob, Michael Fimiani, Kevin Rocco, and Judy Mison.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ray Pompano and Mark Scussel.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Rafter, Jeremy Nielson, Tom Cavaliere, Malena Zanjani, Felipe Suriel, Matt Hoey, Hugh Manke, Toni Lorenti, Eliot Jameson, Andrew King, Brian Courtney, David Salvo, Gloria Bellacicco, Jean Phillips, Katherine Bennett, Lew Langella, Lisa Waring, Michael Giordano, Patrick Hargrove, Peter Leonardi, Tim Sullivan, Petrina Yoxall, Kayla Reasco, Lorena Venegas, Mark Zaretsky, Laurie Gambardella, Jane Bigler, and Jayuan Carter.

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Chairman Robert Reed opened the meeting at approximately 4:06 PM.

1. MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2024

Mr. Reed moved to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on January 15, 2024. His motion was supported by Mr. Fimiani and seconded by Mr. Jacob. With no further questions or comments, the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Robert Reed opened the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority Board meeting. He introduced new board member Judy Mison representing East Haven. Mr. Reed had nothing to report this month.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rafter provided the Executive Director's report, summarizing key updates and action items from the previous Board meeting.

Action Items from Previous Board Meeting:

→ Governors Meeting Materials: This item was addressed accordingly.

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- Noise Program Funding: Mr. Rafter confirmed with Mr. Scussel that Phases 1-5 of the RSIP were included in the 2020-2023 PFC approved application, while Phase 6 is incorporated into the currently approved PFC application, which has been amended to expire on March 1, 2026. Current work will be included in the upcoming PFC application. It was noted that the PFC covers only the sponsor's share of the RSIP project, with the remainder funded through the Part 150 Program.
- Funding Allocation: Mr. Rafter provided Mr. Scussel with a Report outlining the funding allocations.
- December Handout: Ms. Zanjani distributed to the Board.
- HEPA Filter Update: An update will be provided in Mr. Cavaliere's report.
- Veoci Data: An update will be provided in Mr. Cavaliere's report.
- RSIP Report: Mr. Rafter reported that six homes will be addressed in the current phase based on available FAA funding (\$539,910 of the total project cost of \$599,900), with an estimated cost of \$100,000 per home. An additional six homes will be included in subsequent projects as funding permits. To date, RSIP projects have covered 155 properties, 181 dwellings, with a total construction value of \$7,745,537.97.
- RSIP Homeowner Agreement: Mr. Rafter provided Mr. Scussel with a copy of the general agreement.

Mr. Rafter reminded Board members to submit their Conflict-of-Interest Statements to Ms. Zanjani via the email link sent as soon as possible.

He then reported that an ESC meeting was held the previous day, during which key topics included updates to the Noise Website, the Sound Insulation Phase Program, current project statuses, the HEPA filter distribution program, and the REVO program.

An extension was granted until February 28, 2025, for the submission of the 2024 audit. A draft audit report was provided to the Audit Committee on February 3, 2025, and Board members were invited to review it. The only comment received was a minor revision from Mr. Scussel, which has been addressed. A resolution for Board approval of the 2024 Audit Report and PFC Audit is on tonight's agenda.

Mr. Rafter noted that the Compliance Audit remains in progress, with work continuing alongside the consultant. The final report is expected to be presented at the March Board Meeting.

The previously scheduled meeting with the CAA was delayed. Mr. Rafter and Mr. Reed are now scheduled to meet with CAA on March 12, 2025.

The City of New Haven has received a grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) to establish a shared ride service or Micro Transit connecting Tweed Airport, Union Station, and Downtown New Haven. The minivan service is expected to launch in mid-March.

An application was submitted to the South-Central Regional Council of Governments for a study covering key infrastructure projects, including improvements to local intersections, multi-modal enhancements on Proto Drive, the Shoreline Greenway Trail, and roadway extensions on Thompson Avenue.

Mr. Rafter shared the BTS data for November 2024 indicate a 26% increase in enplanements at HVN compared to November 2023. Year-to-date enplanements have increased by 17%, with a rolling 12-month total of 565,201 passengers through November 2024.

During the discussion period, Mr. Dagliere inquired about ongoing concerns regarding flooding and road issues at Short Beach, Hemingway, and Coe. Mr. Reed confirmed that there had been no further discussions with the Governor's Office on the matter. Ms. Mison raised additional concerns regarding recurring flooding at Hemingway.

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Mr. Reed responded that the Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently conducting exploratory planning for corrective action based on previous meetings with state officials. Mr. Dagliere also inquired whether the enplanement statistics included data from Breeze Airways, which recently began service at HVN. Mr. Rafter clarified that the reported statistics only account for enplanements through November, prior to Breeze's commencement of operations.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 2024 FINANCIALS

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo reviewed the financials and asked Mr. Rafter to present the Finance Committee Report for the period ending December 31, 2024. Mr. Rafter provided an overview of financial performance, including revenue, expenses, and balance sheet highlights.

For the Airfield, December revenues, excluding the lessee subsidy of \$2,668,859.81, exceeded the budget by \$44,118.24, while the subsidy itself was under budget by \$26,598.52. Year-to-date (YTD) revenues, excluding the \$1,203,055.50 subsidy, totaled \$383,015.88, surpassing the budget by \$157,489.92. Expenses for December were over budget by \$17,519.69; however, YTD expenses of \$1,586,071.38 remained \$400,204.56 below budget.

For Administration, December revenues fell short of budget expectations by \$19,603.21, with YTD revenues totaling \$341,348.75, which is \$169,051.25 below budget. However, administrative expenses were under budget by \$19,201.40 for the month, and YTD expenses were \$241,270.70 below budget. The actual net results for the Admin Fund showed a negative \$8,412.81 for December, while YTD net results were a positive \$10,476.45, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$61,743.00.

Regarding the Balance Sheet, the fund balance at the end of the period stood at \$392,700.00, with total liabilities and fund balances amounting to \$1,597,124.00.

5. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

Mr. Nielson provided the Airside Operations report, outlining key updates. He reported that since the last meeting, the airport experienced three significant weather events, each averaging approximately three inches of snowfall. In collaboration with the airlines, necessary flights were preemptively canceled, and aircraft were repositioned to other locations, allowing for efficient snow removal and preparation for the following business day. Mr. Nielson expressed appreciation for the close partnership with air carriers during these events. He also noted that while an anticipated storm this week is now expected to pass with minimal impact, ice and slush conditions continue to pose challenges, requiring extended work hours for operations teams.

Mr. Nielson shared that Robinson Aviation's temporary fuel farm is progressing, with all necessary equipment now on-site. The owner is coordinating with vendors to configure and prepare the system for operation, with inspections and certifications to follow in the coming weeks.

Lastly, Mr. Nielson announced that the FAA's annual safety inspection is scheduled for April 22–24. Additionally, the FAA will conduct targeted inspections on February 26 as part of routine oversight.

6. LESSEE'S REPORT – THE NEW HVN LLC

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THE NEW HVN LLC

Mr. Nielson reported that Friday marked the busiest travel day on record for the airport, with further details to be covered in Mr. Cavaliere's report. He also addressed a February 13 security incident involving a passenger making inappropriate remarks on an outbound flight. Law enforcement, including the New Haven Police, State Police, and FBI, responded swiftly. A post-event review was conducted to assess response effectiveness, with findings to be incorporated into a future tabletop exercise. Despite minor delays, customer feedback was positive, and Mr. Nielson emphasized the need for additional resources, training, and personnel as the airport grows.

Regarding facility improvements, plans to add a third lane and reconfigure the departures terminal queuing space have been reviewed with TSA and the city, with final design approval pending. The project is expected to be completed by late spring or early summer, with permitting as the primary constraint. Additionally, enhancements to streamline baggage check-in are underway, allowing passengers to check bags directly from the ticketing trailer to the departure terminal.

In response to Mr. Reed's inquiry about the security incident, Mr. Nielson confirmed that New Haven Police responded within three minutes, and K9 units conducted a bomb search within 30 minutes, a reasonable timeframe given the off-site nature of the resource. A full aircraft, terminal, and passenger security screening was conducted.

For TSA process improvements, the final design submission is imminent, with completion expected by late spring or early summer. These enhancements will integrate specialized TSA equipment and improve efficiency, allowing passengers to check bags at ticketing and proceed directly to security, aligning with industry best practices.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Cavaliere highlighted key community engagement initiatives, including participation in the Greater New Haven Chamber's Legislative Breakfast and a BioCT event, where Governor Lamont and industry leaders discussed the positive economic impact of Tweed's expanded air service. On January 23, Department of Economic and Community Development officials toured the airport to discuss future growth. Additionally, the airport collaborated with Connecticut's Office of Statewide Marketing and Tourism to update the "Welcome to New Haven" signage, featuring artwork by Michael Pollock, unveiled by Governor Lamont on National Pizza Day. Avelo Airlines also celebrated carrying 3 million passengers on Valentine's Day, coinciding with the launch of its Jacksonville route, with fresh cannoli distributed to passengers in partnership with Petonito's Pastry Shoppe.

Operational improvements following the holiday travel season included increased staffing, enhanced traffic management, extended ticket counter hours, and protective awnings. Parking lots averaged 97% capacity, and on February 17, the airport recorded its busiest travel day, serving 6,500 passengers, surpassing the previous record. Despite a 7% rise in passenger volume, TSA wait times improved by 35%, staying under 80 minutes.

Future enhancements include spacing airline departures every 25 to 30 minutes (effective March 2), TSA queuing and processing upgrades (targeted for late spring/summer 2025), and traffic flow improvements, including a roundabout at Dean and Burr Street.

During the discussion, Mr. Dagliere emphasized the importance of promoting East Haven businesses, a sentiment echoed by Mr. Nielson and Ms. Mison. Mr. Cavaliere also updated the Board on the HEPA filter rollout and introduced the airport's participation in the Sunflower Program, which supports travelers with hidden disabilities through discreet identification tools like lanyards and name cards.

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7. REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION #619: APPROVAL OF FINAL FY 2024 AUDIT REPORT AND PFC AUDITS

Mr. Reed read Resolution #619 in its entirety and called for a motion. Mr. Picard moved to approve the resolution, and Mr. Fimiani seconded the motion. Mr. Reed opened the floor for comments or questions. With no further questions, Mr. Reed called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved, and the resolution carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Reed requested to move Mr. Cavaliere's presentation to the next meeting.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Please note that the following comments reflect the speaker's personal opinions and concerns, not established facts. Public Comment is intended for remarks from the public, not for a question-and-answer session. For inquiries, members of the public are encouraged to reach out directly to the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority or Avports.

GLORIA BELLACICCO – NEW HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Ms. Bellacicco expressed frustration over the lack of a follow-up public meeting on the planned traffic circle, alleging a failure to follow through on prior assurances. She also raised concerns about airport operations, citing alleged missed landings in fog and broader issues with unfinished Tweed-related projects. She emphasized the traffic circle's potential impact on nearby institutions and suggested that the City of New Haven, not Tweed, may be responsible for delays in scheduling the meeting. While she appreciated Mr. Cavaliere's efforts to keep residents informed, she urged officials to ensure the community feels heard.

Mr. Eyzaguirre, from the City of New Haven requested to respond, but Mr. Reed directed him to submit a written response to be shared via Mr. Rafter and Ms. Zanjani.

JANE BIGLER – EAST HAVEN, CT [IN-PERSON]

Ms. Bigler voiced concerns about the planned traffic circle and air traffic operations, specifically the timing of flights arriving and departing. She expressed frustration over late-night flights, stating that aircraft take off close to her home and disrupt the neighborhood. She indicated her intention to bring these concerns to her local town hall and speak with the individuals recommended for development discussions.

TONI LORENTI – MCCLAIN, VA [IN -PERSON]

Captain Toni thanked Jeremy and the team for their efforts in maintaining safe airline operations, particularly in challenging winter weather. They emphasized the collaborative nature of aviation safety and the many professionals involved behind the scenes. Acknowledging increased public scrutiny, they reaffirmed their commitment to transparency and open dialogue about flight operations. While recognizing that late-night landings are sometimes unavoidable, they pledged to remain vigilant in addressing misinformation and ensuring accurate communication.

LISA WARING – NEW HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Ms. Waring, a resident two miles north of the airport, expressed concerns about late-night flights, claiming they cause significant noise disturbances and sleep disruption. She alleged that her calibrated sound meter recorded 75

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decibels inside her home. She also criticized the airport's soundproofing efforts, claiming that too few homes are included. Additionally, she alleged that despite public assurances to limit late-night flights, delays frequently push departures into the early morning hours, impacting residents' well-being. Ms. Waring questioned whether the airport's financial surplus could be used to address these concerns and urged collaboration with airlines to prevent scheduling flights that are prone to late-night delays.

JOE GIORDANO – EAST HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

My Giordano shared his favorite pizza joint to be Modern in New Haven.

LORENA VENEGAS – EAST HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Ms. Venegas expressed concerns about transparency, alleging that a UConn report funded with public money has not been shared, a promised 2024 noise study remains incomplete, and East Haven tax issues in the financial audit have not been explained. She also claimed that noise complaints submitted through a new system are not being addressed and that no community meetings have been held to discuss permit processes. She criticized WebTrak as ineffective for accessing noise data and argued that the airport, not residents, should provide data on noise and air pollution impacts. Additionally, she speculated that federal funding for sustainability projects may be at risk and suggested that private investors may not support the airport financially. She further alleged that Avports has restructured in a way that obscures financial commitments made in 2021. In closing, she urged officials to be more transparent with the public.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Reed called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fimiani proposed the motion, and Mr. Jacob seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:07 PM. The next meeting will be held on March 19, 2025 at 4:00 PM.

MINUTES PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

Malena Zanjani

2/25/25