



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

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Reed, John Picard, Serena Neal-Sanjurjo, Linda Hennessey, Carlos Eyzaguirre, Ray Pompano, Ken Dagliere, David White, Jesse Phillips, Michael Fimiani, and Mark Scussel.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mark Sklarz, Richard Jacob, Kevin Rocco, and Judy Mison.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Tom Rafter, Jeremy Nielson, Malena Zanjani, Felipe Suriel, Steven Wight, Michael Giordano, Matt Hoey, Gloria Bellacicco, Andrew King, Brett Simon, Kevin Arnold, Tim Sullivan, Tommy Flood, Sophia Bruce, Lorena Venegas, Jenn Higham, Susan Bryson, J Phillips, Sandra Reiners, Sebastian Ward, Lorrie Maiorano, Katherine Bennett, Salvatore Dey, Kathy Gonzalez, Joe Giordano, Jorge Roberts, Eliot Jameson, Toni Lorenti, Maria Ehrhardt, Jacey Wyatt, Jennette Kawec, and Petrina Yoxall.

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Chairman Robert Reed opened the meeting at approximately 4:05 PM.

1. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Mr. Reed moved to approve the minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on February 19, 2025. The motion was supported by Mr. Dagliere and seconded by Ms. Hennessey. Prior to the vote, Mr. Scussel referenced a list of questions he had emailed earlier that day. In response, Mr. Rafter and Mr. Reed acknowledged the inquiries and stated that they would address the extensive list as soon as possible. With no further questions or comments, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

→ **Action Item: Mr. Rafter to respond to Mr. Scussel's email regarding the March 2025 Board Packet.**

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Robert Reed opened the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority Board meeting and provided an update on the March 3, 2025, meeting with the Governor's Office and representatives from the Town of East Haven regarding public safety needs for the new terminal. He described the meeting as productive and emphasized ongoing collaboration with East Haven to address these concerns. Discussions focused on emergency response times,

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manpower requirements, and security measures, with the Governor's Office requesting updated staffing assessments from East Haven.

Mr. Reed noted that state police presence at Bradley International Airport might provide a model for consideration around the allocation of public safety responsibilities between terminal security and traffic enforcement. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) data indicated a low volume of calls at the current terminal, though future needs remain under evaluation. Cost considerations were not discussed in detail, pending East Haven's updated manpower submission.

Mr. Reed concluded by stating that the meeting was productive and reaffirmed the commitment to continued collaboration with East Haven to ensure public safety concerns are adequately addressed.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rafter provided the Executive Director's report, outlining key updates from the previous Board meeting.

The FY26 budget process has begun, and staff will collaborate with Avports to develop the Airfield budget, which is expected to be presented at the June Board meeting. Efforts will be made to provide the Board with an early draft, potentially in May.

A resolution on tonight's agenda proposes an amendment to McCarter & English's engagement as Issuer's Counsel to include the retention of a government affairs consultant. This addition is necessary for Phase 2 of the debt financing feasibility analysis, which requires expertise in public sector responses to financing options.

On March 12, 2025, Mr. Rafter and Chairman Reed met with newly appointed CAA Executive Director Michael Shea and his staff. Discussions covered capital projects at both Bradley International Airport (BDL) and Tweed New Haven Airport (HVN), as well as legislative matters.

The final draft of the Economic Impact Analysis is included in the Board packet. Members are encouraged to submit comments by April 2, 2025, in preparation for Board adoption at the April meeting.

Regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) appeal, intervener briefs are scheduled for submission by April 11, 2025. A final resolution is not anticipated until early next year.

Lastly, BTS statistics for December 2024 indicate a 57% increase in passenger enplanements at HVN compared to the previous year, with year-to-date enplanements up by 20%. Over the past 12 months, total enplanements reached 589,169.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JANUARY 2025 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 January 31, 2025. Mr. Rafter provided an overview.

Airfield Fund January revenues, excluding the \$194,474 lessee subsidy, exceeded budget by \$194,796, while the subsidy itself was under budget by \$98,985. YTD revenues, excluding a total subsidy of \$1,397,529, were \$615,399, surpassing budget by \$352,286. January expenses exceeded budget by \$95,811, including \$154,164 for fire truck foam replacement, which will be reimbursed in March. YTD expenses were \$2,012,928, under budget by \$304,394.

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Administrative Fund January revenues were below budget by \$16,517, with YTD revenues falling short by \$185,568. Monthly expenses were \$14,544 over budget, though YTD expenses remained under budget by \$226,727. The net result for January was a negative \$34,663, with a YTD loss of \$24,187, still ahead of the budgeted loss of \$65,346. This month's shortfall was primarily driven by final FY24 audit costs and \$20,000 in legal expenses related to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and other legal matters.

On the Balance Sheet, the fund balance at the end of January was \$358,058, with total liabilities and fund balances amounting to \$1,804,080.

5. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

AIRFIELD OPERATIONS

Mr. Nielson provided the Airside Operations report, highlighting key updates. The annual airport emergency tabletop exercise is scheduled for March 20, with a report to follow next month. The FAA airport safety certification inspection will take place April 22–24, covering airfield safety, fueling practices, and compliance reviews. Runway painting and rubber removal are planned for April to maintain safe runway conditions.

Design progress continues, with the East Terminal at 60% completion and the runway at 90%. Plans are advancing for the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) building expansion and a new snow removal equipment storage facility. Mr. Nielson clarified that FAA funding covers equipment but has specific eligibility criteria for facility construction, with efforts underway to maximize funding.

Chairman Reed noted steady design progress despite initial delays in Board updates. Before reaching 70–75% design, plans will be shared with East Haven, New Haven, and the Board before issuing an RFQ or RFP.

6. LESSEE'S REPORT – THE NEW HVN LLC

THE NEW HVN LLC

Mr. Nielson provided the Lessee Report, highlighting ongoing collaboration with the TSA and the City of New Haven on terminal enhancements, including the addition of a third passenger check-in lane, expanded queue space, and improved checked baggage handling.

He also noted that while winter weather has passed, recent fog and inclement conditions caused delays over the past weekend. To improve traffic management, the airport is hiring an additional law enforcement officer to assist with traffic flow at key intersections and within the airport. Collaboration with the City continues to optimize traffic patterns and alleviate congestion.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Cavaliere provided an update on recent community engagement, airport initiatives, and ongoing noise monitoring efforts.

This past month, the airport engaged with residents, local businesses, and regional partners. Tweed welcomed several Make-A-Wish families through its partnership with Avelo Airlines and hosted Quinnipiac University film students for a capstone project shoot. A new retail partnership with Pearls and Plaid will bring Connecticut-branded apparel to the airport's automated store. The third annual Earth Day Clean-Up is scheduled for April.

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The airport attended events hosted by the Greater New Haven and East Haven Chambers of Commerce and collaborated on the St. Patrick's Day "Royal Pizza Float," which won Best Parade Float. Over 200 students participated in the Exploring Aviation Open House, which included tours, aircraft access, and career exploration with Avelo and aviation professionals.

Tweed continues to enhance its noise monitoring program, with portable monitors capturing all noise above 65 decibels. Initial data from January 1 to February 17 showed 85% of recorded noise was community-related, 9% aircraft-related, and the remainder due to weather. Placement near roadways influenced results. The monitors will soon be deployed to residential areas, and a more detailed report will be provided at the next meeting. Mr. Cavaliere and Mr. Rafter emphasized the system's ability to isolate aircraft-specific noise and the importance of context in interpreting results.

Plans are underway to establish a formal FAA Community Roundtable. Mr. King explained this is a long-term initiative requiring coordination, funding, and technical expertise, with the goal of exploring potential flight path adjustments to address noise concerns.

Mr. Cavaliere confirmed that the airport continues to respond to community inquiries submitted through the VEOCI system. Staff monitor, respond to, and close out all feedback received. Future reports may include summaries of these inquiries for Board review.

In response to a prior Board suggestion, Mr. Cavaliere confirmed outreach to the East Haven Economic Development Office and reiterated the airport's ongoing support for partnerships that benefit the local business community.

→ *Mr. Cavaliere to connect with Mr. Scussel offline to discuss VEOCI data processes.*

7. REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION #620: AMENDMENT TO MCCARTER ENGLISH ENGAGEMENT AS ISSUER'S COUNSEL TO INCLUDE ENGAGEMENT OF A GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CONSULTANT

Mr. Reed provided additional details about the resolution before reading it in full. He then read Resolution #620 aloud and called for a motion. Mr. Dagliere moved to approve the resolution, with Ms. Neal-Sanjurjo seconding. Mr. Reed opened the floor for comments or questions. Discussion ensued regarding the fee, confirming it as a flat cost. With no further questions, Mr. Reed called for a vote, and the motion was unanimously approved, carrying the resolution.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

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.

JACEY WYATT – BRANFORD, CT [IN-PERSON]

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Ms. Wyatt, an airport employee, expressed strong personal support for the proposed expansion and stated she would like to see it go further. She noted her background in politics and business and is exploring future consulting opportunities at the airport. Ms. Wyatt claimed concerns about flight paths over Branford do not reflect all community views, stating she lives under the flight path and does not find it disruptive. She alleged broader community support exists and offered to help bring those voices forward.

KATHY GONZALEZ – NEW HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Ms. Gonzalez, a teacher and parent of three Nathan Hale School students, expressed concerns about the proposed traffic circle at Dean and Burr Street. She alleged it would worsen already heavy traffic and pose safety and air quality risks near the school. She urged the board to hold a follow-up meeting with more details and allow community members to share concerns and learn about planned safety measures.

KATHERINE BENNETT – EAST HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Ms. Bennett raised concerns about the temporary fuel farm, claiming it is located on wetlands and questioning efforts to expand it without a permanent plan or permits, according to East Haven Town Hall. She also expressed concern about a proposed roadway extension on Thompson Avenue, alleging a lack of clarity about the project's scope and impact on her neighborhood.

GLORIA BELLACICCO – NEW HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Ms. Bellacicco alleged a near traffic collision caused by an airport employee directing overflow traffic through a double gate and requested a police officer be present for safety. She asked for formal notice of a second community meeting on the proposed traffic circle and questioned why the traffic study near Burr Street was conducted by the airport rather than the city. She also expressed concern about potential impacts on homes near Townsend Avenue.

TONI LORENTI – A.L.P.A. (AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION) [IN-PERSON]

Captain Toni commended the board for addressing key issues and noted the airport's growth. They added that aircraft idling may cause public confusion during busy travel periods and emphasized that delays are often due to national air traffic systems, not local factors. Toni supported community education on air traffic procedures, offered to assist with outreach efforts, and expressed interest in the upcoming noise data.

LORENA VENEGAS – EAST HAVEN, CT [VIRTUAL]

Ms. Venegas raised concerns about the airport expansion, alleging the UConn study is flawed due to questionable data, missing financial risk analysis, and inflated job projections. She claimed the single aging runway, located in wetlands and vulnerable to sea level rise, limits viable growth. She also alleged a lack of transparency and stated that East Haven bears disproportionate costs compared to neighboring towns. Additional concerns included alleged flight diversions, a complex noise complaint process, and unresponsiveness from staff.

PETRINA YOXILL – NEW HAVEN, CT [IN-PERSON]

Ms. Yoxill alleged that the airport has exceeded its capacity, raising concerns about increased traffic, flooding on Coe Avenue, and congestion on local roads. She claimed noise complaints are difficult to submit and that idling cars from passenger pickups regularly block her street. Additional concerns included alleged overnight noise, air pollution from ground equipment, traffic near schools, and health impacts. Ms. Yoxill questioned how the airport could accommodate more passengers or future developments, such as a hotel.

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10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Reed called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. White proposed the motion, and Mr. Dagliere seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:26 PM. The next meeting will be held on April 16, 2025 at 4:00 PM.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- *Action Item: Mr. Rafter to respond to Mr. Scussel's email regarding the March 2025 Board Packet.*
- *Mr. Cavaliere to connect with Mr. Scussel offline to discuss VEOCI data processes.*

MINUTES PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY

Malena Zanjani

3/24/25

DRAFT