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Tweed New Haven Airport Authority and The New HVN LLC Submit Comprehensive Environmental Mitigation Plan Advancing Runway Extension and Terminal Expansion

New Haven, CT – The Tweed New Haven Airport Authority (TNHAA) and The New HVN LLC are proud to announce taking the next step in the regulatory process by submitting its inland and tidal wetland permit applications to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), it is taking the next step in the planned runway extension and East Terminal construction project. This submission is a major step forward in Tweed-New Haven Airport (HVN)’s nearly century-long effort to unlock new opportunities for Southern Connecticut through expanded air service and improved transportation infrastructure, while delivering one of the most comprehensive environmental and flood resilience plans ever undertaken for a regional airport in Connecticut.

This transformative project includes the extension of Runway 02-20 to 6575 feet, the construction of a new East Terminal, and associated infrastructure improvements such as parking, roadways, and aircraft aprons. The East Terminal will feature a modern 80,000-square-foot facility with six boarding positions (four gates and two additional boarding positions), improved parking for up to 4,000 vehicles, and a new access road from Proto Drive.





The permit applications follow the completion of HVN's 90% Runway Design Review and East Terminal 60% Design Review, which finalized the technical site and civil design components for the East Terminal construction and supporting infrastructure.

"This submission represents the culmination of years of hard work, collaboration, and a deep



commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible growth,” said Jorge Roberts, CEO of Avports, LLC. “We are proud to take this important step forward with a plan that supports the needs of our growing region while carefully prioritizing the protection of our natural resources.”

"The submission of this application and the associated public review process are both important milestones as we look to develop a new passenger terminal in an environmentally responsible manner,” said New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker.

“The preparation of these applications has been a thoughtful and collaborative process, and we are grateful to the many local, state, and federal partners who helped shape a plan that balances the need for modern infrastructure with our responsibility to minimize environmental impact,” said Michael Jones, CEO of The New HVN. “We look forward to continuing that collaboration into the permitting process and beyond.”

“This expansion represents a vital economic development opportunity for New Haven, East Haven, and the State of Connecticut,” said Robert Reed, Chairman of the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority. “We are not just expanding the airport’s infrastructure — we are strengthening its role as a catalyst for job creation, economic growth, and broader regional connectivity. This project will help drive long-term prosperity, support local employment, and open new opportunities for residents and businesses alike.”





Airport Modernization

HVN expansion, announced in May 2021, is built upon a promise to deliver tangible, long-term benefits to the Southern Connecticut region. Enhancements at the airport will address runway and terminal barriers that previously limited HVN's service options, and will create the conditions necessary for new carriers to enter the market seamlessly and expand regional connectivity. This work will include:

- **Upgrades to airport infrastructure** that address existing operational limitations and continue to provide safe and reliable air travel —such as runway constraints and terminal capacity—thereby allowing for smoother, more efficient operations.
- **Improvements in the passenger experience** by enhancing amenities, reducing delays and ensuring convenience for all travelers.
- **Investments in strengthening local economies** by creating jobs, attracting new businesses, and strengthening regional connectivity.

Environmental Stewardship

These applications address both the opportunities and responsibilities that come with this growth—from environmental stewardship to long-term monitoring and community benefit. This historic investment being made in this airport expansion has allowed HVN to not only mitigate environmental impact, but also take significant strides in making HVN a leader in sustainability in aviation:

- **Environmental Mitigation Measures:** HVN is committed to minimizing environmental impacts and has developed a comprehensive mitigation plan to address wetlands, flood resilience, and air quality.
- **Innovative Wetland Mitigation Strategies:** The mitigation plan creates cutting-edge strategies to restore and enhance tidal wetlands.
- **Grassland Bird Habitat Mitigation Plan:** The project includes a Grassland Bird Habitat Mitigation Plan that will permanently conserve 25 acres of land managed specifically to support wildlife, with a focus on protecting habitat for declining grassland bird species.
- **Comprehensive Monitoring Plan:** To ensure the success of the mitigation efforts, HVN has developed a robust five-year monitoring plan in accordance with federal and state guidelines.

Since beginning its Master Plan process in September 2019, HVN has conducted significant scientific research and conducted extensive outreach and dialogue with all impacted local,



state, and federal agencies including the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. These current applications were submitted to both CT DEEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for review of potential impacts to areas under their regulatory jurisdiction, in accordance with the U.S. Clean Water Act, the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act, the Connecticut Tidal Wetlands Act, and the Connecticut Coastal Management Act.

Upcoming Community Meetings

HVN has hosted more than 20 public meetings to date. This year, we're holding six additional community meetings between June and November, each focused on key topics like environmental quality, economic development, quality of life, traffic, and noise. For updates and details on upcoming meetings, please visit [here](#).

For more information on what was submitted to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, please see background below. For the applications, visit [here](#).

Media Contact

Kayla@intersectps.com

AKing@avports.com

BACKGROUND

Tweed New Haven Airport Expansion and Environmental Mitigation Plan

Tweed-New Haven Airport (HVN), through the Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority (TNHAA) and the New HVN LLC, are advancing a landmark infrastructure project that will modernize the airport and strengthen its role as a regional economic engine. As part of this effort, TNHAA and the New HVN LLC have submitted its environmental permit applications to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)—a pivotal step forward that underscores the Authority's commitment to delivering one of the most comprehensive environmental and flood resilience plans ever undertaken for a regional airport in Connecticut.

These applications outline how critical infrastructure improvements will be paired with robust environmental mitigation, long-term sustainability strategies, and a thoughtful approach to engaging and protecting the surrounding communities.

Project Overview



The project extends Runway 02-20 by 639 feet to the south and 336 feet to the north, resulting in a total length of 6,575 feet. A new 80,000-square-foot East Terminal, expanded parking for up to 4,000 vehicles, and a dedicated access road from Proto Drive will be built entirely within the existing airport footprint, minimizing land use and environmental impacts.

Key Project Benefits

- **Modernization of critical infrastructure to meet regional air service demand.** The runway extension and terminal expansion will allow HVN to accommodate larger aircraft and increased passenger volumes, providing the region with more reliable air service and new destinations. The improvements will support the airport's projected growth through 2040 and beyond.
- **Major reductions in operational and fuel inefficiencies.** Extending the runway removes current aircraft payload restrictions, allowing airlines to operate more efficiently. Apron and taxiway improvements will reduce fuel burn and greenhouse gas emissions by shortening taxi times.
- **Enhanced flood resilience designed for extreme climate conditions.** The East Terminal will be elevated on structural piers above the 100-year flood elevation. Key systems will be placed above flood levels, and the structure will allow water to pass underneath during severe weather events.
- **Restoration of native tidal wetlands and habitat expansion.** The environmental mitigation plan will enhance or create over 32 acres of high-value tidal wetlands, improving water quality, supporting estuarine wildlife, and serving as a natural coastal defense.
- **Protection of wetlands and public trust resources in perpetuity.** A Long-Term Management Plan will ensure that restored wetlands are permanently conserved, regularly monitored, and maintained for the benefit of future generations.
- **Prioritizes community compatibility by routing airport traffic through commercial and industrial areas, avoiding residential neighborhoods.** The expansion prioritizes compatibility with surrounding neighborhoods through smart design and strategic planning. A new access road will route airport traffic through commercial and industrial corridors, avoiding residential streets. Additionally, the terminal and parking structures will act as visual and acoustic buffers, helping to reduce noise.

Environmental Stewardship and Flood Resilience

Tweed-New Haven Airport's expansion is underpinned by a comprehensive, science-driven environmental strategy that not only addresses regulatory requirements but also enhances regional ecosystems and prepares the airport for future climate challenges. Developed through years of coordination with environmental experts and state and federal regulators, HVN's mitigation plan includes wetland preservation and restoration, flood resilience engineering, air quality improvements, and long-term ecological stewardship.

- **Wetland Preservation, Restoration & Long-Term Monitoring Strategies.** The project offsets unavoidable impacts to 9.31 acres of wetlands by enhancing 28.5 acres of tidal wetlands and



creating 3.61 acres of new tidal salt marsh. Restoration activities will promote native species like *Spartina alterniflora* while targeting the reduction of invasive species such as *Phragmites australis*. To improve hydrology, tide gate operations will be modified to enhance tidal exchange and salinity—creating favorable conditions for native vegetation. In upland areas, regrading and excavation will expand the footprint of functional tidal wetlands, supporting estuarine wildlife and ecosystem health.

- **Adaptive Management & Long-Term Protection.** A robust five-year monitoring plan will track vegetation, wildlife, salinity levels, and erosion, with corrective actions—such as supplemental planting and hydrologic adjustments—taken as needed. Upon completion, restored wetlands will be safeguarded under a Long-Term Management Plan that includes annual and bi-annual inspections, invasive species control, conservation easement enforcement, and other permanent conservation measures.
- **Flood Resilience Engineering.** The East Terminal will be constructed on structural piers, raising it above the 100-year flood elevation to withstand extreme weather events. Mechanical systems will be placed in elevated locations, and the terminal’s open lower level will allow floodwaters to flow safely beneath the structure, reducing damage risk and ensuring operational continuity during severe storms.
- **Grassland Bird Habitat Mitigation Plan.** The Airport’s environmental commitments include preserving 25 acres of grassland bird habitat to protect species like the grasshopper sparrow and bobolink — some of the fastest-declining bird populations in the Northeast. These birds rely on large, open grasslands that have been disappearing across Connecticut due to development and land fragmentation. This mitigation, developed in coordination with CT DEEP, ensures high-quality habitat is protected and managed to support these species’ survival while balancing aviation safety and development.
- **Air Quality Improvements.** The expansion will also contribute to cleaner air by reducing taxi times and optimizing aircraft movement. These improvements will lower fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, aligning with the aviation industry’s broader sustainability goals.

Long-Term Commitment

This expansion prioritizes environmental justice and long-term stewardship, reflecting HVN’s commitment to being a responsible and responsive neighbor. From the outset, HVN has engaged with local leaders, environmental experts, and residents to ensure the project meets both regional transportation needs and community expectations. The Authority is proactively implementing mitigation and monitoring programs to preserve natural resources, minimize disruption, and ensure transparency throughout the project lifecycle. HVN’s Long-Term Management Plan includes:

- Annual and bi-annual inspections
- Invasive species control
- Conservation easement enforcement
- Ongoing monitoring of wetland function and resilience



The DEEP applications underscore TNHAA and The New HVN LLC's vision for Tweed-New Haven Airport to grow responsibly—delivering modern, efficient air travel while protecting ecosystems and ensuring harmony with the surrounding community.