



AIRPORT ADVISORY COMMISSION 20231108-XXX

Date: November 8, 2023

Subject: Air Traffic Safety

Motioned By: Wendy Price Todd

Seconded By: Jeff Eller

Recommendation

The Airport Advisory Commission expresses gratitude to United States Representative Lloyd Doggett and requests that the Austin City Council acknowledge and support safety measures to meet current demand for commercial, cargo, military, governmental and private flights using Austin-Bergstrom International Airport by seeking appropriate and necessary changes to designate ABIA as a level 10 terminal facility; to expand protected airspace; and to increase Certified Professional Controller training, staffing, and oversight.

Additionally, the Airport Advisory Commission seeks information from airport staff and their partners within the Federal Aviation Administration, Transportation Safety Administration and Customs and Border Protection in order to better participate in cooperative actions that can be taken by the Austin Mayor and City Council.

Description of Recommendation to Council

The Airport Advisory Commission respectfully requests that the Austin Mayor and City Council partner with United States Representative Lloyd Doggett in his advocacy for airport operations and financing, passenger safety and employee resources by supporting the requests Representative Doggett put forth in the October 16, 2023 letter to the Federal Aviation Administrator attached as backup and described above.

The Airport Advisory Commission appreciates the opportunity to be a conduit between the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport and the Austin City Council to foster alliances with the Federal Aviation Administration, Transportation Safety Administration, and Customs and Border Protection to advocate for enhancements to personnel and safety in order to meet current demand and future forecasts.

Rationale:

As demand for commercial domestic and international air travel to and from the region has grown, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport has experienced a staffing shortage in Spring 2022 and reported air traffic safety incidents on February 4, 2023, June 26, 2023, and September 23, 2023.

Congressman Doggett has communicated on behalf of Austin-Bergstrom International Airport to the Transportation Security Administration on April 4, 2022, United States Customs and Border Protection on April 5, 2022, and to the Federal Aviation Administration on October 16, 2023.

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is meeting the mounting strain on a facility designed for 15 million annual passengers by hosting over 20 million annual passengers with an ambitious program that includes improvements and expansion of the Barbara Jordan Terminal now under construction and new taxiway, tunnel and terminal in the design phase.

The Airport Advisory Commission, on behalf of the City of Austin, seeks to be a collaborative partner in advocating for a safe experience for all who travel through and work at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.

Vote

For:

Against:

Abstain:

Absent:

Attest: *[Staff or board member can sign]*
