




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council Members

**FROM:** Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager 

**DATE:** November 3, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Austin-Bergstrom International Airport Update

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As you are aware, we've experienced two tragic incidents at the airport this year, resulting in the death of two people. In April, an airline employee was killed following a single-vehicle crash. This week, a City of Austin employee suffered fatal injuries after being struck by an aircraft fueling truck. Both events have had profound impacts on our airport community.

This week's tragic event continues to be investigated by the appropriate agencies, including the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) and Austin Police Department. Our hearts remain with this employee's loved ones, and we are offering our full support to our colleagues at the airport as they navigate this loss. We will support and assist the investigation as needed, but given that this is an open investigation, we do not have additional details to provide at this time. I want to express my gratitude for the Austin Police Department and Human Resources Department for swiftly establishing on-site victim services and Employee Assistance Program support for our Department of Aviation staff.

The safety of passengers and all staff working at the airport is unequivocally the highest priority for the Department of Aviation. I've asked Interim Director Jim Smith to review the Department's safety programs to help identify what elements of the airport enterprise is specifically under the City's purview, the initiatives currently underway by the Department to support safety at the airport, and how we can influence safety measures outside of the City's direct control.

We will be providing an overview to you next week that lays out our operations related to safety including these tragic events and following recent near-miss incidents involving federal air traffic controllers and aircraft operators.

Understandably, many of you still have questions regarding this recent event, as do I. Please know that we are committed to providing you with additional information when it becomes available.

CC: Robert Goode, Interim Assistant City Manager  
Jim Smith, Interim Chief Executive Officer, AUS