

## **AVIATION ISSUES CONFERENCE**

### **American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE)**

**Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>:**

#### **State of the Industry: Aviation Leader Roundtable**

- 1. The Omnibus bill passed by the last congress in December 2022 funded the TSA for pay equity for Air Marshalls and Screeners. They had been paid 25% lower than other airport employees. Also included are monies for improved screening equipment up to the level of medical CT scanners.**
- 2. Peter Defazio of Oregon just retired from the House and headed the committee on Aviation and who also led the infrastructure bill which passed in 2022 with Democrats support and 10 Republican Senators. \$25 billion for Airports. The \$25 Billion is nowhere enough to upgrade our airports. [Can TTAD get any of this \$\$\$?]**
- 3. Biggest issues for 2023 is the reauthorization of the FAA and the confirmation of the FAA administrator by the Senate. Both will be challenging.**
- 4. Installation of a Secondary Barrier on airplanes is a priority. Flight attendants moving a food cart blocking the aisle and standing behind it while the flight crew uses the restroom is not that safe.**
- 5. The impact of drones on Airports needs to be studied.**
- 6. The Airline industry had their most profitable year ever in 2022. But Airlines are still recovering from Covid damage to their financials.**
- 7. The FAA needs to permit Airports to approve non-aviation uses on non-aviation land to improve airport revenue.**
- 8. Regional Airport Executive was very interested in the development and impact of electric aviation vehicles**
- 9. PFAS (forever) chemicals are an issue for airports. Cleanup is expensive. San Luis Obispo airport ground water is contaminated with PFAS. Very expensive cleanup. (This issue was brought up in the Issues conference 2 years ago. I e-mailed Bill Seline and Mike Staudenmayer Northstar CSD about PFAS. Mike confirmed that he has not discovered any PFAS in their wells. Bill Seline said that they had PFAS in the ARF fire truck but he**

**subsequently found a substitute that was not PFAS and disposed of the PFAS foam in the ARF Firetruck. Good for the Martis Valley.**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023**

- 1. Met Shannetta Griffin PE, Associate Administrator for Airports, FAA. Discussed the lack of FAA response to Robb Etnyre's letter of June 7, 2022 on the Land Exchange with TTSA. Gave her background on TTAD. Followed up with our submission on June 7<sup>th</sup>. She said that she would follow up with the SF office.**
- 2. Met Peter Kirsch and discuss various issues concerning TTAD.**
- 3. Airports concerned about PFAS cleanup without funds from FAA.**

**Wednesday, January 11, 2023.**

- 1. FAA official gave an update on the crash of the air traffic control system. The main system started having problems at midnight. They loaded the back up system and it started failing. So they did a full stop and reloaded the main system which caused flight delays on the east coast and minimal on the west coast. He said that the system is antiquated.....**
- 2. With the changes in EV vehicles (both cars and planes) airport will have to triple their electric supply to meet future needs.**
- 3. Big focus on the upgrades to LAX for the 2028 Olympics.**
- 4. Heliports are going to become more important.**

**38<sup>th</sup> Aviation Issues Conference January 7-11, 2024. Fairmont Orchid Hotel, The Big Island.**

**39<sup>th</sup> Aviation Issues Conference, January 5-9, 2025. Grand Hyatt Kauai**

**40<sup>th</sup> Aviation Issues Conference, January 11-15, 2026. Fairmont Orchid Hotel, The Big Island**