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Letter from Bart R. Mueller:

Each year, you are likely to see news report about the number of passengers traveling through Atlantic City International Airport (ACY) over the Thanksgiving holiday and, then later, news about the airport's annual passenger count. And while these numbers are important in gauging how we're doing overall, they don't tell the whole ACY numbers story.

Atlantic City International Airport is a major economic force in southern New Jersey – that's a fact. A recent economic impact study conducted for the South Jersey Transportation Authority, ACY owner and operator, reports that the total economic impact of the airport is an impressive \$464 million annually derived from capital investments, SJTA aviation operations and visitor spending.

Jobs are a big factor in the airport's role as an economic driver in the region, with more than 10,700 jobs created by all aviation-related activities on the airport property, including those of the Federal Aviation Administration Tech Center, New Jersey Air National Guard 177th Fighter Wing, United States Coast Guard Air Station/Atlantic City and the Transportation Security Agency Federal Air Marshall national training center. ACY operations employ over 4,500 people with a total payroll of \$136 million.

Of the million-plus travelers who used ACY for travel in 2007, more than 360,000 of them are visitors to the region who spend \$185 million at local businesses during their stay – an average of \$514 each daily.

Capital investment in ACY generates much of the economic activity with more than \$32 million invested in 2008.

- A new six-story, 1,370-space parking garage was erected just steps from the terminal building, a garage lobby area accommodating rental cars and rental car offices.
- The baggage retrieval area has been expanded and access simplified from the second floor gate area bringing passengers down and directly into the baggage area for quick and easy bag claim.
- A new baggage screening facility has been constructed, adding space for passengers in the terminal lobby.
- Terminal upgrades are nearly completed, and include terrazzo flooring, ceiling tiles and lighting improvements, new carpeting and newly renovated bathrooms on the east wing of the terminal.

Many more capital improvements to ACY facilities are planned, along with both public and private capital projects on the airport's footprint.

The number of passengers flying in and out of ACY has risen annually, with 1.2 million passengers in 2007. The airport is recognized for having the shortest wait time of all New Jersey and Philadelphia international airports. The economic impact study calculated that ACY produces over \$20 million in benefits derived from saving passengers 11 million miles and 314,000 hours traveling to and from air travel in the Philadelphia/New Jersey region.

Why conduct an economic impact study now? Atlantic City International Airport has the potential to grow substantially by adding more carriers, more routes, more passengers and improved access. The study provides us with a baseline from which we can measure the impact of our growth initiatives and demonstrate the need for additional investment.

Atlantic City International Airport is capable of handling major carriers and more flight frequencies. ACY does about 120,000 airfield operations annually, but has the ability to do 500,000. In fact, the airport is under contract with NASA as an alternative landing site for the Space Shuttle!

To help us grow, we are engaged in a coalition with Atlantic City destination and economic development stakeholders with the goal of attracting carriers that can achieve frequency and connectivity to the national air travel system. These efforts are expected to make Atlantic City more accessible to major markets such as Chicago, Boston, Atlanta and cities east of the Mississippi that will be a catalyst in the region's ability to attract major conventions and meetings.

Atlantic City International Airport is an important factor in the economic health of Atlantic City and the South Jersey region as a whole. We are committed to capitalizing on our potential for growth and on maximizing our substantial assets.

I hope you agree that the Atlantic City International Airport numbers story is one that should be shared. Please feel free to contact me should you be aware of any speaking opportunities to groups large and small so that we can spread the word.

I hope you have found this information useful. For access to the full report, go to www.sjta.com and click on "Annual Reports" then select ACY Economic Impact Study.

Sincerely,



Bart Mueller
Executive Director