SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL AIRPORT
ALBANY DOUGHERTY COUNTY AVIATION COMMISSION
July 16, 2026
TEAMS VIDEO CONFERENCE

TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR: DAVID HAMILTON, Present

CHAIRMAN: BART HILLSMAN, Present

VICE CHAIRMAN: KEN HODGES, Present

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: DOUG FAIRCLOTH, DONTRAVIOUS SIMMONS, PAMELA GREEN JACKSON, WILLIE WEAVER JR.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: ORSON BURTON JR.,

THIS MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:00 P.M.

- **Approvals –** Chairman Hillsman called for a motion to approve the agenda for this evening's meeting and the minutes from the July meeting. The minutes and agenda were approved as distributed.

- **Bart Hillsman –** Chairman Hillsman asked if there were any additions or questions regarding the financial reports. No questions or comments were made.

- **Carol Comer –** Transportation Director David Hamilton presented Carol Comer, representing River Street Group. Comer's presentation on the proposed ABY Strategic Business Plan will also be presented to the City Commission at the next available meeting. Comer explained that together we have completed operational and financial assessments, considered stakeholder engagements, benchmarking peer airports, and explored development opportunities and implementation strategies. She also acknowledged recent accomplishments and strategic momentum ABY has achieved recently, such as the start of terminal concession improvement, the 30-unit T-hangar development project advancing, and retaining an air service development consultant.

  Comer explored opportunities to build on recent momentum, such as passenger and air service growth, business and aviation development, and economic development and revenue growth. She highlighted the fact that, in order to expand the terminal and introduce more flights or airlines, more people need to be boarding the current flights, also called "enplanements." She spoke about strategic initiatives and recommendations for 2027-2031, specifically marketing and air service growth, regional partnerships engagement, and business development and revenue diversification. 2031 target outcomes are to reduce passenger leakage by 10%, increase non-

aeronautical revenue by 25%, and advance development of the 85-acre GRAD site. Chairman Hillsman asked if there were any additions or questions regarding Comer's presentation. Commissioner Faircloth asked who the peer airports that were looked at. Comer answered airports such as Columbus, Brunswick, and Savannah and also reached out to a number of other airports such as Valdosta, Macon, and Dothon.

- **Chris Warren –** Chris Warren gave updates on the air service development plan, representing SEH. Warren explained two support programs and the differences between them – Airport Program support, and Community Program support. He mentioned also that ABY's operating costs are reasonably low, which is something to take into consideration when choosing a support program. Some potential air service options being looked at are American/United, Delta #4, or a budget airline.

  Warren opened the floor for questions or comments. City Manager Terrell Jacobs asked Warren to clarify if the Community Program support would come from the city's hotel/motel tax. Warren said that was absolutely one way it can be done, but other communities have maybe one or two stakeholders such as the Chamber of Commerce. Jacobs asked what price points we were looking at, and Warren explained that there's not really a "sticker price" at the moment since there are many variables, but that realistically it will be in the low seven figures. Manager Jacobs also asked if there would need to be a community funding mechanism for the budget carrier. Warren affirmed that there would need to be support.

- **Wayne Middleton –** Wayne Middleton representing Vector gave a continuation of a previous presentation on landing fees. Middleton revisited the key points he touched on before, highlighting that 90% of the billable operators by revenue already have an account with PLANEPASS, the program that would be used to implement the landing fees. Chairman Hillsman asked if there were any additions or questions regarding Middleton's presentation. There were none.

- **Kyle Jackson** – Delta Manager Kyle Jackson provided updates for the airline. Summer travel has really picked up since May, showing a 7% increase this year since last year. Operational performance remains strong at ABY. Jackson explains that the main focus this summer is the federal requirements related to serving passengers with disabilities. Hands on training for all airline employees is now required in regard to handling passengers with movement assistance devices such as wheelchairs. There are no schedule changes planned through October.

- **Chris Lowery** – Chris Lowery, representing HOLT, provided construction updates. Charlie Sierra Apron Project has been completed and was a success. The Taxiway Crack Seal Rejuvenation Project should be finished next month once the markings are completed. The North Hangar Development project is in its design phase, and 90% of the paperwork has been submitted for it. Once we get the comments back from GDOT, we can proceed with 100% design and bid. Lowery is hopeful that the ROFA project will enter design phase this fall.

- **Pope Langdale –** Owner of Albany Jet Center, Pope Langdale, expressed appreciation for coordination from the contractors and Superintendent of Operations Roberto Pagan in regard to the construction projects. Langdale said traffic is low during the summer but that things are going well otherwise. He noted that there are no other significant updates. Langdale afterward mentioned that a marketing plan helped build up enplanements for the Valdosta airport, and that we would benefit greatly from one as well.

  Chairman Hillsman asked Langdale to address an incident a couple of weeks ago wherein a Delta flight arrived at ABY and was not able to refuel the plane since no one at AJC was available. Langdale expressed full accountability for the incident. He explained that an established employee that was working the weekend morning shifts asked a new employee if they could switch shifts. The new employee overslept, causing the lapse in coverage. Langdale said that where they failed was that they did not have multiple backups, and unfortunately Delta Manager Jackson did not have the AJC assistant manager's phone number so he could not contact him for assistance. Ultimately the Delta flight had enough fuel to get back to ATL so the flight was not affected. However, AJC manager has gotten with Jackson and they have built a contingency plan, and that this incident will not happen again. Hillsman thanked Langdale for his candor.

- **Bart Hillsman –** Chairman Hillsman asked if there were any items to be added to the future agenda. Commissioner Hodges asked if the Delta meeting that he has been trying to coordinate would be scheduled. Transportation Director Hamilton explained that ABY has been talking with Chris Warren and they feel that Chris should be included in the meeting since it directly involves him as well. City Manager's Jacobs expressed his agreement in having a meeting with Warren about what to discuss in the Delta meeting in order to be fruitful. Chairman Hillsman said that they will attempt to schedule a meeting in the next few days. City Manager Jacobs mentioned that the mayor expressed interest in rededicating the ABY terminal after McAfee, as it has been in the past. Jacobs asked City Attorney Michael Custer to verify any naming ordinances associated with this, and asked Director Hamilton to research the history of McAfee. The date for the next Aviation Commission Meeting was confirmed to be October 15, 2026.

Respectfully,

David Hamilton
Transportation Director