

ALBERT WHITTED AIRPORT



The City's Albert Whitted Airport sits on the edge of downtown St. Pete, overlooking Tampa Bay. The Airport provides various aviation services including fueling, storage, parking, maintenance, flight training, charter and rentals, avionics, and sightseeing tours. In addition to general aviation, the airport also supports Civil Air Patrol, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, Bayflite Medivac, and various other medical transport services.

HISTORY

On January 1, 1914, the then Mayor, A.C. Pheil, became the first paying passenger in the U.S. on the St. Petersburg-Tampa Air-boat Line. This established St. Pete as the birthplace of scheduled airline service. The airport was created in 1917 when a single, shell runway was built on top of the dredge material from when the Port of St. Pete was created. In 1928, a number of airfield, hangar and other infrastructure improvements were initiated and the airport was formally named "Albert Whitted". The name change was in recognition of Lieutenant James Albert Whitted, USNR, a St. Petersburg native, one of the U.S. Navy's first 250 Naval Aviators and the person who introduced the people of St. Petersburg to flying. During World War II, the Airport served as a Naval Training Center and up until 1976 was the home to a United States Coast Guard Air Station, before it moved to St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The functional airport sits on approximately 110 acres. The airfield is comprised of two runways, with the longest at 3,677 ft. x 75 ft., in addition to various paved taxiways and aircraft parking ramps. Multiple facilities reside on the property including the Galbraith Terminal and air traffic control tower.

SERVICES

- Aviation services include aircraft fueling, aircraft storage and parking, flight training, aircraft charter and rentals, aircraft and helicopter maintenance, aircraft detailing, avionics, pilot supplies, banner towing, and sightseeing tours.
- As a community asset, the airport also provides amenities for the non-flying public including a restaurant, rental cars, observation areas and an aviation-themed playground at nearby Albert Whitted Park.

FAST FACTS

- \$128 million annual economic impact
- 948 total jobs supported by the airport
- \$27 million capital investment in the airport
- 85% capital funds paid for by Federal and State grants
- Over 100,000 annual aircraft operations
- 180 aircraft based at the airport

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Through the variety of aviation services and businesses that are based on and/or use the Airport, the St. Pete community is providing career-based and high-tech job opportunities within the aviation industry that contribute to and compliment the Innovation District - St. Pete's epicenter for varied industries including medical, research/education and marine science and home to the Albert Whitted Airport.

The airport has a total economic impact of over \$128 Million and supports approximately 948 jobs. Indirect impacts are associated with spending from visitors who arrive in the area via general aviation aircraft.

FUTURE

The City has begun an airport Master Plan, which provides a 20-year plan for the growth and development of the airport facility. Specific areas will be studied including the potential shift/extension of Runway 7/25, future aircraft storage opportunities, the potential redevelopment of the Albert Whitted Wastewater Treatment Plant site and the integration of the city-wide focus on sustainability and resiliency.

In addition to the Master Plan, additional analyses are under consideration for highest and best use of this facility.

STAFFING

There are 4 employees, including the Airport Manager and 3 maintenance staff: a Maintenance Mechanic II, Maintenance Mechanic I and a Maintenance Worker I. The Maintenance Worker I is shared with the Marina/Port. Marina Security also does random patrols of the airport property after hours.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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