

Air Times

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NYAMA

New York Airport
Management Association

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New York Airport
Management Association

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New York SOARS!

Program Cites Ties Between Flight Access/Cost and Economic Development

Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno unveiled a comprehensive, \$650 million plan to lower the cost of in-state flights and pay for airport capital improvements that would boost local commerce.

The Senate Majority's Statewide Opportunities for Airport Revitalization program — NY SOARS — is an outgrowth of work by the Senate Majority Task Force on Upstate Airports, appointed by Senator Bruno in 1997 to study ways to improve air service and lower fares.

NY SOARS would provide \$200 million in state capital funding over five years for airport terminal, runway and access highway improvements, and leverage an additional \$430 million in federal and local airport funds. Airport capital improvements are widely seen as an effective means of luring low-cost air carriers and stimulating competition, leading to lower costs for travelers.

Additionally, NY SOARS would create a three-year, \$20 million pilot program to subsidize in-state airfares at under served Upstate airports, mirroring an existing state program that ensures bus

service to poorly served, outlying communities across the state.

Currently, air fares for travel between in-state cities are often many times higher than that for other domestic or even international flights. For example, air travelers can pay as much as \$1,168 for a round trip flight between Ithaca and Buffalo. Other high fares for round-trip travel include a \$650 ticket between Islip and Binghamton, \$489 between New York and Buffalo, \$471 between Albany and New York, \$285 between Syracuse and Rochester, and \$487 from Ithaca to New York.

NY SOARS would be administered by the state Department of Transportation, which

would make grants to local airports based on a review of applications for specific construction projects.

"We know that by improving airport facilities we can increase traffic and stimulate competition among air carriers, ultimately lowering costs to business and leisure travelers," said Senator Bruno (R-C, Brunswick).

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senting the needs of New York State's aviation in-
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From the President

NYAMA/NYS DOT Initiate Regional Program

We are only three months into the millennium and it has already been an extremely productive year for NYAMA!

We kicked off the first in a series of regional meetings this month at Binghamton Regional Airport. The Regional Program, a joint NYAMA and NYSDOT venture, provides local forums to review the AIR '99 grant application, and to network and discuss airport development issues among colleagues. To date, the meetings have proved to be a great success — communicating the essential components of this new funding source and facilitating valuable interaction among airport representatives.

Our diligent efforts to communicate to the Legislature the need for capital improvement funding is paying off. Recognizing the importance of the state's aviation industry to the economy and the need to lower intra-state fares, Senate Majority Leader Bruno proposed a comprehensive plan to encourage airport improvements across the State. NY SOARS is an unprecedented five-year, \$650 million airport revitalization program. It will take our collective efforts to move the proposal through the legislative process!

NY SOARS will be among the topics discussed at our first-ever Aviation Advocacy Day on March 28. It is critical we have a **strong** showing from the aviation industry. Registration materials are available on our web-site: www.nyama.com or by



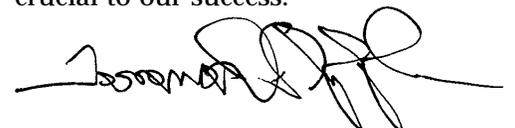
Terrence G. Slaybaugh
NYAMA President

contacting NYAMA Headquarters at (518) 432-9973.

The Lobby Day is designed to provide airport managers and other aviation officials with timely information on state budget airport development issues; and provide a venue for constructive dialogue among colleagues and state lawmakers. Please plan to attend the conference, schedule meetings with your legislators and participate in our Legislative Reception.

Shortly after the Advocacy event, NYAMA heads to Binghamton for our annual Spring Conference. This one+ day event is packed with training sessions and speakers providing valuable industry-related information and another opportunity to network with airport leaders. More information is available on our web-site or by calling NYAMA Headquarters.

This year presents unparalleled opportunities for the promotion and development of aviation in New York State. Your active participation is crucial to our success.





Port Authority Wins Award for World Trade Center Operations

The World Trade Center - among the world's tallest buildings and a New York City landmark for 30 years - captured the prestigious Operating Office Building of the Year Award from the Building Owners and Managers Association of New York.

The Trade Center, which consists of two 110-story office towers, four other office buildings and a 22-story hotel, was honored in recognition of its physical attractiveness, efficiency of operation and its impact on the downtown business community. In recent months, the complex has improved its occupancy rate to 94 percent, and its renovated shopping mall has become one of the nation's top-performing malls.

"I'm pleased that the building industry has recognized the renaissance that has taken place at the World Trade Center," said Port Authority Executive Director Robert E. Boyle. "The Trade Center is an economic engine that has revitalized downtown Manhattan and will help its economy to flourish for many years to come."

"I'm especially glad to see the hard work of the Port Authority's World Trade Center staff recognized with

this award," Mr. Boyle added.

Recent improvements to the Trade Center include:

- A \$12 million renovation of the five-acre Austin J. Tobin Plaza, located outside the main entrances to the twin towers. Last summer, the Port Authority sponsored a series of free performances on the plaza that drew 250,000 spectators to more than 70 free performances and plans to add new cultural events this summer.
- A dramatic revitalized mall at the World Trade Center with many new shops and restaurants - more than 80 in all. Retailers re-

ported a 26-percent increase in sales last summer.

- An electrical upgrade program to satisfy the projected power requirements of its tenants.
- Comprehensive customer service training for the World Trade Center staff. Trade Center employees attend classes in facility management, ranging from business ethics to customer relations and communications skills.

For more than a quarter century, the Business Owners and Managers Association of New York has recognized excellence in the building industry and acknowledges individuals, organizations and properties that merit special recognition. 

GRIA Welcomes Midway Airlines

On February 10, Midway Airlines began three daily nonstop round trip jet flights to Raleigh-Durham from the Greater Rochester International Airport (GRIA). The airline offers connecting service to the northeast, midwest, south and southeastern regions of the United States.



Monroe County presents an ideal opportunity for a competitive carrier like Midway," said Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle. "Midway's decision to service Monroe County will help combat our current climate of less than competitive air fares for local employers and businesses. The fare structure offered by Midway will also offer area residents, visitors and leisure travelers more options and more value for their travel dollar."

"Our current airfare market in

Submission Deadline

Articles for the next edition of *Air Times* are due by May 1, 2000!

Thank you for your support of NYAMA's quarterly newsletter.

BNIA Announces Expanded Low-Fare Service

The Buffalo Niagara International Airport (BNIA) announced increased service on two low-fare airlines. Starting January 18, AirTran Airways expanded its Buffalo service to Atlanta, Georgia from two to three daily flights. The new service departs at 1:40 p.m. in addition to the present departing times of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Shuttle America increased its non-stop flights to Boston's Hanscom Air Field from one to three flights per day.

NFTA Executive Director, Lawrence M. Meckler stated, "We are pleased at the continued commitment of both AirTran Airways and Shuttle America to provide the Niagara Region with quality, low-cost air service."

AirTran, with three daily flights to Atlanta and connecting fares to most Florida cities, offers round-trip airfare to Atlanta as low as \$118. Atlanta is currently the Niagara Region's fourth most popular destination with almost 150,000 annual passengers.

Shuttles America flights to Boston represent 116,000 annual passengers. Over 150,000 passengers total have flown with Shuttle America since its BNIA inaugural flights last November.

This past year, the BNIA moved down the list of the nation's most expensive airports from 28th to 37th, due to low-fare carriers such as AirTran and Shuttle America. In the first quarter of this year, BNIA passengers paid only 19.6 cents per mile, down from 22.7 cents from the first quarter of 1998. In the past three years, the BNIA dropped a total of 37 percent in per-mile cost.

Legislative Update

New York Has Historic Opportunity

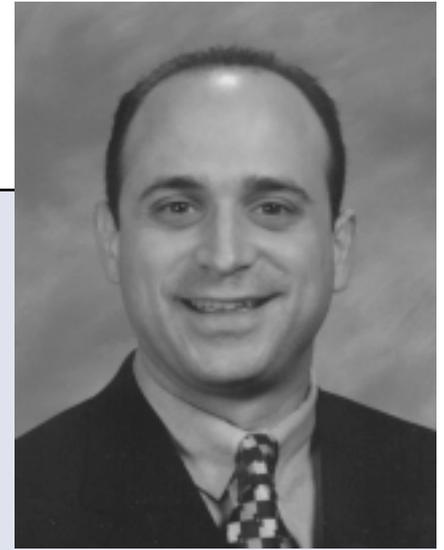
Will New York State invest additional state resources in its aviation infrastructure? Will New York attract new airlines to offer intra-state air service at reduced cost? Will the major airlines reduce ticket prices for New York air travel?

These questions, as well as thousands of others, are addressed to our Governor and members of the state Legislature each and every day. There are thousands of bills introduced and discussed during the regular legislative sessions, which runs from January 5 to June 14 each year. In addition to legislation, the Governor and State Legislature have the awesome responsibility for enacting a \$70+ billion state spending plan.

Airport capital improvements and general air service have traditionally been an issue addressed by the federal government or the private sector. Local governments have always invested local tax dollars to maintain their respective airport, but without federal dollars projects would simply not be accomplished.

During the 2000 Legislative Session, the Governor and Legislature have an historic opportunity to jumpstart the upstate economy and unlock the chains of economic progress. How? By enacting the New York State Statewide Opportunities for Airport Revitalization Program (SOARS)!

This creative initiative will pump critical state capital funding into our airports, and lays out a bold new initiative to inject airline competition into a market which begs for additional players. By designating economic essential air routes in New York at low air fares, all New Yorkers will benefit.



Stephen J. Acquario, Esq.
Legislative Counsel

Is this a corporate subsidy? Some say yes; I say no. Why? Because this proposal provides a means of transportation to our citizens in underserved areas of our state or areas currently receiving service, but at rates which prohibit the overwhelming majority of our citizens from utilizing. NY SOARS simply provides a public service to the public. Our citizens deserve the opportunity to visit family and friends in other parts of our state through the use of low fare air service. Our business community should also have access to air travel to Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Newburgh, New York City and Islip on short notice at low rates. Why assist the business community? Because it makes good economic sense. It will make our State more competitive on a national level and make our state a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Do your part and send a letter, make a phone call and otherwise generate community support for the Senate's plan to improve airports and air service in New York. Please don't delay as state budget discussions are nearing towards a resolution. Many say the state will have an on-time April 1 budget. Will the adopted state budget include additional state funding for aviation and airport development? That question will be answered soon. Let's all do our part so the answer is yes! 



NY SOARS • Continued from page 1

"Lower fares and increased service are critical not only to the survival of New York's regional economies, but also to strengthen New York's ability to attract and retain jobs, especially Upstate," Senator Bruno said.

Unveiling the plan during his annual "State of the Capital Region" presentation to regional business leaders, Senator Bruno pointed to the success of the Albany Airport in luring a record number of travelers and, more recently, low-cost carrier Southwest Airlines, after significant investment of state and local funds to improve that once-outdated facility.

"This plan builds on that blueprint and provides a comprehensive approach to making our communities gateways for both local air travelers and those from throughout the nation," Senator Bruno said.

"Since 1994, New York State has spent \$147 million on airport capital improvements," said Senator Caesar Trunzo (R, Brentwood), Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee. "Under the Senate plan, the state would increase its investment and make the kind of airport facility improvements that are necessary to attract new airlines and increase competition."

Governor Pataki's proposed five-year capital plan would spend \$73 million for improvements to aviation facilities. NY SOARS would add \$127 million to the capital plan, bringing total state funding for airport improvements to \$200 million.

Additionally, the plan includes \$20 million over three years from the state's General Fund to finance a pilot program of subsidies for in-state air fares.

"The Senate Majority Airport Task Force concluded that the high cost of air fares is a major factor holding back additional economic growth, especially in Upstate New York," said Senator Ronald B. Stafford (R-C, Plattsburgh), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and Chair

of the Task Force, said. "Improving our airports, creating more airline competition and reducing air fares will result in lower costs to business and new economic activity."

"Maintaining and enhancing our state's airports through on-going capital improvements allows the state to compete

on a national level to attract low-cost airlines and maintain existing intrastate and interstate air service," Stephen J. Acquario, Legislative Counsel for the New York Airport Management Association said. "The Senate's commitment to fund these improvements will result in more competition, lower air fares and greater economic activity." 

Stewart International Airport Receives FAA Airport Approval *Allows Funding of \$20 Million in Capital Improvements*

The New York State Department of Transportation announced in January that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has approved plans that will allow Stewart New York International Airport to collect \$4.6 million to apply towards a \$20 million of capital improvements projects, over the next four years by collecting a \$3 Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) placed on each enplaning passenger.

Hugh Jones, Airport Director, stated, "This approval is an important decision that will allow Stewart International Airport to meet its full potential as a crucial transportation hub for the Hudson Valley and the New York metro area. Five projects that will benefit from this action include rehabilitation of Runway 9/27, glycol collection improvements, north cargo ramp expansion, aircraft ramp rehabilitation and a pavement maintenance, topographical mapping plan. These projects underscore the importance of modernizing and strengthening our infrastructure as Stewart International Airport meets the needs of a new transportation era."

Dollars will be Matched

The FAA has authorized the airport to collect some \$4,558,000 between now and November of 2003

to be used as the local share to match against FAA funded projects. PFC's previously were collected at Stewart New York International Airport under authorization granted under a previous application approved in 1995. Without the FAA action, the airport's ability to collect funds would have ceased on December 31, 1999.

Jim Wright, Chairman of the Stewart International Airport Commission, said, "The FAA's decision demonstrates the importance of Stewart International Airport to the air transportation network and an acknowledgment that our region needs a vibrant, dynamic airport that can meet the needs of an economy dependent on air service. We are delighted that Stewart International Airport's management aggressively pursued this issue and we are equally pleased that the FAA was so responsive to the application. We look forward to seeing these projects move forward with all due speed."

Stewart New York International Airport, which is in the process of being privatized, contributes \$128,500,000 annually to the region, is served by six commercial airlines, enplanes 360,000 passengers and employs 2,100 people.



Albany International Welcomes Southwest Airlines

Albany, NY—The Albany County Airport Authority welcomes the announcement that Southwest Airlines would begin offering low-fare service at Albany International Airport in May.

“Southwest Airlines will dramatically reduce the cost of air travel for business and leisure travelers in the greater Capital District Region,” said Rev. Michael A. Farano, chairman of the Albany County Airport Authority.

A key to Southwest’s decision to locate in Albany was the recent completion of a \$6.2 million terminal addition and two jet bridges made possible by Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno.

“Senator Bruno recognized the significant economic impact a major low-fare air carrier could have on the Capital Region and provided the financial support necessary to make it happen,” said Rev. Farano. “Senator Bruno has been in our corner from the beginning.”

The Airport’s new terminal opened in June of 1998, completing the Airport Authority’s promise to build a new Gateway to the Capital District. Reducing fares would be the next step.

“The key to lowering airfares in Albany has been completed,” said John C. Egan, CEO of the Albany County Airport Authority. “Southwest Airline is a first class competitor and we developed a comprehensive plan to bring them to Albany. Its amazing what

can be accomplished when elected officials, the business community and the people of the region work together.”

Southwest Airline will occupy six ticket booths on the first level if the terminal, two jet bridges and hold-rooms in the Airport’s C-Concourse.

Southwest Airlines average one-way airfare is about \$79, and the average passenger trip length is 632 miles.

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**AOPA PILOT
TOWN MEETING**



**Mid-Hudson River Valley, New York
Thursday, March 30, 2000 • 7:30 pm
Sheraton Civic Center Hotel
40 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie**

AOPA President Phil Boyer will update pilots on current developments in national aviation legislation, policy and regulations, and will solicit pilots’ views of the General Aviation situation in New York and New England.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm and is open to all pilots without charge.



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Contact NYAMA
Headquarters for
more information,
or visit us online at
www.nyama.com

2000 Lobby Day
March 28, 2000
Albany, New York

NYAMA is hosting its first-ever Aviation Advocacy Day at our State Capitol in Albany on March 28, 2000. The program is designed to provide airport managers and other aviation officials with timely information on state budget issues and state funded airport development programs; and provide a forum for constructive dialogue among colleagues and state lawmakers. *Don't delay — Register today!*



Air Race Classic Takes Off

The Air Race Classic air race takes off in Tuscon, AZ on Tuesday, June 20, 2000 at 8:00 a.m. MST and terminates at Hyannis, MA at 5:00 p.m EDT, June 23, 2000. The 99s—a group of women pilots (and avid aviation enthusiasts) will be including Ithaca, NY on their routing for their race.

The air race is expecting 50 entries, each carrying two women pilots. The aircraft will be seen in Ithaca on June 22, 2000, where they will be given a warm reception from the aviation community and general public.

Toronto Flights Touch Down in Albany

Rev. Michael A. Farano, Chairman of the Albany County Airport Authority today announced that Air Georgian will begin direct flights form Albany to Toronto beginning April 3.

“The addition of flights to Canada is a continuation of our goal to expand service and lower fares,” said Rev. Farano. “We are most pleased to welcome Air Georgian to the Albany family.”

Air Georgian will operate seven days a week and offer three non-stop flights to Toronto each business day. A flight schedule will be announced shortly. In addition to providing direct flights to Toronto, passengers traveling from Albany will benefit from the opportunity to connect beyond Toronto to Air Canada and Star Alliance global destinations.

Air Georgian will operate Beachcraft 1900D aircraft. The 18-seat aircraft features a stand-up cabin, comfortable reclining leather seating, under-seat storage and a lavatory.

“Our focus will be on delivering quality service to the customer and helping to build the Air Canada network,” said Paul Mulrooney, President of Air Georgian Limited.

Air Georgian will be a subsidiary of Air Ontario, which now offers daily flights from Toronto to both Syracuse and Rochester. Air Georgian will take over the flights to Syracuse and Rochester.

Air Georgian will operate as Air Ontario's tier three carrier in route development. Air Ontario says its long-term goal is to put larger aircraft on the Albany-Toronto flights as the route matures.

Business Express was the last airline to offer flights from Albany to Toronto. The service was terminated in 1996.

He's Moved!

NYAMA Lifetime member Bill Shea and his wife Carol have moved from Seaside, Oregon to:
**664 Knollwood Drive
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 406-1386**

Bill was recently featured in the Californian Times-Standard Newspaper with his 65 horsepower Lycoming engine.



New York Airport Management Association

Register Today!

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for a New Age*

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