



NEWS RELEASE

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COALITION FORMED TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

New York, New York– A coalition of business, civic, labor and environmental organizations today announced the formal launch of a campaign to restore, maintain and expand the New York Metro region’s airports. The “Better Airports Alliance” aims to educate residents on the problem of airport delays, provide fresh solutions to relieve congestion and build a consensus for major improvements.

As part of this effort, the Regional Plan Association, working alongside experts and stakeholders and in consultation with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, will develop a comprehensive planning study on airport congestion. The study, expected to be released publicly this fall, will include recommendations to increase overall airport capacity and efficiency over the next generation.

Members of the coalition, which is still in formation, are listed below.

At present, the state of air travel in the region is grim. JFK, Newark Liberty and LaGuardia rank as the country’s most congested airports. Three-quarters of nationwide delays are attributable to delays originating from the New York region’s airspace, which handles one-third of the nation’s flights. With passenger growth averaging 3% annually, the congestion of our region’s airports and airspace will become even more acute in the future.

-more, more, more-

Air traffic congestion is causing significant damage to the regional economy – to the tune of \$2.6 billion each year. According to a report by the Partnership for New York City, without additional action, losses attributable to congestion will total a staggering \$79 billion from 2008-2025.

Robert D. Yaro, President of the Regional Plan Association, stated: “As we commend the on-time re-opening JFK’s Bay Area Runway, we need to look ahead to the work still to be done to address the airport congestion that negatively impacts our region. The goals of the Better Airports Alliance are simple and straightforward – to increase public awareness, reduce airport congestion and plan for future growth.”

“Air traffic congestion in New York area airports is a threat to the City’s status as a center of global commerce, said Kathryn Wylde, President and CEO of the Partnership for New York City. “It is also a multi-billion dollar drag on the US economy. Nowhere would investment in transportation infrastructure have a bigger or faster payback for the US economy than in relief of congestion at the big international airports serving New York. The Partnership welcomes the opportunity to join with civic and transit advocates as part of the Better Airports Alliance.”

The Better Airport Alliance is an investment in New York City’s future,” said Denise Richardson, Managing Director of the General Contractors Association of New York. From the critical on-time completion of the Bay Runway Construction by GCA Member Tutor Perini to investment and installation of NextGen traffic control technology, addressing New York’s airport congestion is a national economic issue. The Better Airports Alliance will be a vital resource in helping to work toward solutions for airport congestion.”

Charlie Murphy, Vice President of Pattern for Progress, said that “We look forward to working with the Better Airports Alliance to help solve the region’s airport congestion issues, including exploring greater use of peripheral airports such as Stewart International in Newburgh, just north of the City. Stewart is an economic asset for the Hudson Valley and can be for the entire tri-state region as well.”

Many members of the Better Airports Alliance are actively pressing the immediate deployment of improved navigation systems, known collectively as NextGen, including the full implementation of airspace management, in the New York region. The current study will

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consider whether other proposals, such as expansion of the three major area airports, greater use of peripheral airports, demand management actions, and investment in intercity rail, have merit.

Coalition in formation
Members as of
Tuesday, June 29, 2010

AAA New Jersey Automobile Club
Accenture
Air Carrier Association of America
Air Transport Association
American Airlines
Atlantic City International Airport
Aviation Development Council
City College of the City University of New York Institute for Urban Systems
City College University of New York Transportation Research Center
Continental Airlines
Corgan Associates Architects PC
General Contractors Association of NY
Greater Jamaica Development Corporation
Landrum & Brown
Long Island Association
Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce
Newark Regional Business Partnership
New York Building Congress
Partnership for New York City
Pattern for Progress
Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA
Regional Plan Association
Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management
Tri-State Transportation Campaign
Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology
Vision Long Island

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