America’s airports are a fundamental component of our nation’s infrastructure. To meet the capacity demands of the future with safe, efficient, and modern facilities passengers and airport customers expect, we need to make long overdue investments to maintain and modernize airports. 

UNMET AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

In ACI-NA’s most recent infrastructure needs survey, ACI-NA estimates that there are nearly $130 billion in unmet airport infrastructure needs through 2023. That’s more than $25 billion per year necessary to keep up with current demand and plan for the future. What’s worse, airport infrastructure needs have increased more than 28 percent in just two years and 70 percent in four years.

NO NEW MONEY

Since the creation of the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) in 1992, nearly $104 billion in PFC-backed infrastructure projects have been approved by the FAA. But just over half of total PFC obligations have actually been collected as of 2017. Over $50 billion in PFC collections are still outstanding but already committed to past projects, meaning no new money is entering the system for future projects to spur airline competition, enhance safety and security, or expand capacity.

DOLLARS TO PEANUTS

U.S. airlines commonly pay rent and landing fees to operate at America’s airports. These nominal costs account for less than six percent of an airline’s annual operating cost.

Since 2000, U.S. airlines have spent nearly the same amount on snacks as they have spent on landing fees to use U.S. airports.
Current airport and airline investment in airport infrastructure projects are not meeting the needs of air travelers today and into the future. America’s airports face more than $128 billion in infrastructure needs across the system, half of which have no identified funding source. Old, cramped terminals are stretched beyond capacity and in desperate need of repair. Many airport terminals are well beyond their useful life, and inadequate airport infrastructure is stifling airline competition and driving up fares.

After years of neglect we finally have a great opportunity now to change that dynamic at America’s airports. Air travelers would greatly benefit from airports having the ability to generate more local revenue for terminals, gates, runways, and taxiways that would increase capacity, provide much needed competition, enhance safety and security, and improve the overall passenger experience.

Better infrastructure would give travelers more choices, lower airfares, and a better experience at the airport.

Strong and vibrant airports lead to economic and job growth in the local communities they serve.

INVESTING IN AIRPORTS ENHANCES THE PASSENGER EXPERIENCE

- Increased Competition
- Lower Airfares
- Faster, Shorter Lines
- More Gates
- Baggage System Upgrades

ECONOMIC OUTPUT OF AMERICA’S AIRPORTS

- 11.5 million jobs
- $1.4 trillion in annual economic output
- 825 million passengers

Learn more at airportscouncil.org >>