



2023 ACI-NA Business of Airports Conference

Finance Track Moderator Book

June 26 – 28, 2023

Phoenician Scottsdale // Scottsdale, AZ

Monday, June 26, 2023

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM – Strategic Planning and Performance Management Working Group

Bryan Benefiel, Deputy General Manager & CFO, Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport



Bryan Benefiel is the chief financial officer and deputy general manager of Hartsfield-Jackson. In his role, he oversees more than 100 employees in eight units including capital finance, financial planning & analysis, risk management, revenue, budget and IT. A certified public accountant, he monitors ATL's nearly \$1 billion annual budget and oversees the financing needs for ATLNext, the Airport's multibillion-dollar capital improvement program.

Mr. Benefiel has more than 20 years of experience in finance and accounting roles, with experience in the public and private sectors. His experience includes strategic planning, financial planning and analysis, financial reporting, budgeting, capital finance and business process improvement.

Mr. Benefiel joined the Airport in 2012 as the director of financial planning and analysis. He was promoted to assistant general manager of finance and accounting in early 2019. Prior to joining the Airport, he served as director of general accounting for the City of Atlanta's finance department. In this role, he was a key player in the financial and business process improvements improving the City's financial strength. Prior to joining the City, Mr. Benefiel served as the director of accounting for the American Cancer Society. As the recipient of several financial and airport certifications, Mr. Benefiel is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Management Accountant, and Certified Financial Manager. In the airport industry, he is a Certified Member of the American Association of Airport Executives and earned the International Airport Professional designation, a professional designation of Airports Council International and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Mr. Benefiel earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting from the University of Central Oklahoma.

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM – Airport and Airline Business Working Group
Marge Basrai, Executive Vice President and CFO, Metropolitan Nashville
Airport Authority



At MNAA, Marge is responsible for payroll, budgeting and accounting, cash and investment strategy, debt management, insurance, and risk management, grant financial administration, oversight of rates and charges, air service development and airline affairs, and Concessions.

Ms. Basrai has 22 years of accounting and financial management experience in the aviation industry. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) and a Certified Member (C.M.) of AAAE. Ms. Basrai earned a B.A. in Accounting and an MBA from Michigan State University.

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM – Financial Regulatory Implications Working Group
Chris Wimsatt, Deputy Director, Finance and Administration, Sacramento
County Airport System



Chris Wimsatt is a Deputy Director of the Sacramento County Airport System, and oversees all Finance & Administrative functions to include Rates & Charges, Budget Development, Capital Finance, Accounting, Procurement, and Information Technology. Chris manages a staff of 40 employees in the management of the Airport System's more than \$250 million operating budget while overseeing financing needs related to SMForward, Sacramento's \$1.3 billion capital improvement program.

Prior to joining the Sacramento Airport System in 2021, Chris held several public financial management roles in Ohio and has more than 10 years of experience in public and private sector financial leadership. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and a Master's degree in Business Administration.

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM – Accounting and Financing Working Group
Abel Palacios, Vice President, Finance, Dallas Fort Worth International Airport



Abel Palacios is the Vice President of Finance at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. He has over 30 years of experience in strategic finance, business analysis and financial accounting. In his role, Abel provides business leadership for the Airport by directing financial and business processes including accounting, accounts receivables, accounts payables, payroll, financial reporting, financial planning, operating budgets, capital budgets, collections call center and airline settlement of rate fees and charges. He also directs the activities of the Accounting and Planning sections of finance and administers the financial provisions of the Airport Use Agreement,

bond documents, lease agreements and permits.

Abel began his career with Ernst and Young in 1988, then moved to American Airlines in 1991, where his duties included managing the accounting and recording of all passenger sales, which totaled more than \$1 billion per month. After a series of promotions, Abel joined AMR Services Corporation, where he was responsible for the financial reporting and accounting of the company's domestic and international locations.

Abel holds a Master of Business Administration from Texas Christian University and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Texas. In addition, Abel is a certified public accountant and a former EMBA Alumni Board member with TCU.

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM – Finance Committee Meeting
Michael Hill, Chief Financial Officer, Charlotte Douglas International Airport



Mike Hill is the Chief Financial Officer for the City's Aviation Department, which owns and operates Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT). He oversees all financial accounting and procurement activities for the department. This includes the development and implementation of its strategic financial plan and annual operating budget. Hill is also responsible for the preparation and development of the Aviation Department's airline rates and charges program, development of its Annual Financial Report, the financial implementation of the department's \$2.5 billion capital improvement program and

management of its \$600 million debt portfolio. Hill also oversees all Aviation Procurement activities for the Airport including all goods and services and construction. Hill has been a part of the Aviation Department since 2013. Prior to joining the City of Charlotte, he was a senior financial consultant at Newton & Associates, Inc. in Charlotte for 16 years. He has a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Administration from Indiana State University and is a Certified Member (CM) with American Association of Airport Executives.

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Session 2C: Understanding Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Financial Disclosure

Brian Butler, Chief Financial Officer, Salt Lake City International Airport



Brian Butler is the Chief Financial Officer of the Salt Lake City Department of Airports. He received his Bachelors degree in Corporate Finance from Brigham Young University, an additional Bachelors degree in Accounting from Utah Valley University, and a Masters of Accountancy from the University of Utah. Brian is a CPA and belongs to both the Utah Association of Certified Public Accounts as well as the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Prior to joining the Airport in 2015, Brian worked in public accounting as an auditor for Eide Bailly. In his current role as CFO of the Airport, he is responsible for overseeing the construction budget and debt financings of the New SLC in addition to the day to day finances of the Airport.

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM – Session 3C: The Strategic Capital Improvement Program
Financial Planning – Challenges and Solutions to Volatile Capital and Operating Environment

Bryan Benefiel, Deputy General Manager & CFO, Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport



Bryan Benefiel is the chief financial officer and deputy general manager of Hartsfield-Jackson. In his role, he oversees more than 100 employees in eight units including capital finance, financial planning & analysis, risk management, revenue, budget and IT. A certified public accountant, he monitors ATL's nearly \$1 billion annual budget and oversees the financing needs for ATLNext, the Airport's multibillion-dollar capital improvement program.

Mr. Benefiel has more than 20 years of experience in finance and accounting roles, with

experience in the public and private sectors. His experience includes strategic planning, financial planning and analysis, financial reporting, budgeting, capital finance and business process improvement.

Mr. Benefiel joined the Airport in 2012 as the director of financial planning and analysis. He was promoted to assistant general manager of finance and accounting in early 2019. Prior to joining the Airport, he served as director of general accounting for the City of Atlanta's finance department. In this role, he was a key player in the financial and business process improvements improving the City's financial strength. Prior to joining the City, Mr. Benefiel served as the director of accounting for the American Cancer Society.

As the recipient of several financial and airport certifications, Mr. Benefiel is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Management Accountant, and Certified Financial Manager. In the airport industry, he is a Certified Member of the American Association of Airport Executives and earned the International Airport Professional designation, a professional designation of Airports Council International and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Mr. Benefiel earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Chayot Ing-Aram, Senior Vice President, Financial Planning, Denver International Airport



Chayot Ing-aram, CFA, is the SVP of Financial Planning at Denver International Airport (DEN). Since joining in March 2021, he has effectively managed Financial Reporting, Grants Management, Capital Investment Program Budget, Operating Expenses Budget, and Airport Rates & Charges. Despite challenges such as the pandemic, rising interest rates, global supply chain disruptions, staffing issues, and elevated inflation rates, Ing-aram successfully delivered strategic budgets. He led the grants team in securing substantial federal funding, resulting in DEN receiving the third highest nationwide Airport Terminal Program

(ATP) funding to date. Additionally, Ing-aram represents large hub airports on the ACI-NA Finance Steering Committee.

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM – Session 4C: How to Finance Airport Capital Improvement Program in a Volatile Capital and Operating Environment
Tracy S. Borda, Chief Financial Officer, Philadelphia International Airport



Tracy S. Borda is the Chief Financial Officer for Philadelphia International Airport and Northeast Philadelphia Airport. She provides financial leadership and oversight of key financial operating functions and supports the achievement of the Airport's financial goals and strategic initiatives.

She joined Philadelphia Airport System in 1995 and currently provides executive management and direction of all financial and procurement operations, and oversees the airport's business diversity and inclusion program. Tracy is responsible for development and oversight of the airport's \$420 million annual operating budget and its \$1.57 billion debt portfolio, as well as leads the financial implementation of the Airport's \$1.26 billion capital improvement program.

Tracy holds a B.S. in Finance from the Pennsylvania State University and an MBA from Temple University. She is a certified public accountant in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; a Certified Member with the Association of American Airport Executives; and serves as first vice-chair of the Finance Steering Committee for Airports Council International - North America.

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM – Airport Roundtable by Hub Size

Brian Butler, Chief Financial Officer, Salt Lake City International Airport



Brian Butler is the Chief Financial Officer of the Salt Lake City Department of Airports. He received his Bachelors degree in Corporate Finance from Brigham Young University, an additional Bachelors degree in Accounting from Utah Valley University, and a Masters of Accountancy from the University of Utah. Brian is a CPA and belongs to both the Utah Association of Certified Public Accounts as well as the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Prior to joining the Airport in 2015, Brian worked in public accounting as an auditor for Eide Bailly. In his current role as CFO of the Airport, he is responsible for overseeing the construction budget and

debt financings of the New SLC in addition to the day to day finances of the Airport.

Andrew Durket, Chief Financial Officer/ Deputy Financial Management Division, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport



Andrew Durket is currently the Chief Financial Officer for Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix, Arizona.

Andrew's career began as the Investment Office with Hamilton County in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He then moved to St Louis, Missouri, where he served as the Treasurer for St Louis County.

Andrew then relocated to Phoenix, Arizona where he took over as the Debt Manager for the City of Phoenix. In that role, his team was responsible for issuing all debt for the city as well as debt compliance on the City's outstanding debt of \$6.5 billion.

In his current role as Chief Financial Officer, Andrew's team sets the rates and charges for the airport, completes the Airport's ACFR, manages the CIP and CIP budget as well as the operating budget, and handles accounts receivable and billing.

Andrew has been involved with many different organizations including the Federal Reserve's Faster Payment Task Force, and currently serves as the Vice Chair for the Treasury and Investment Management (TIM) Committee for the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). He holds his Certified Treasury Professional (CTP) Designation from the Association for Financial Professionals (AFP).

Andrew lives on the north side of the City in Cave Creek with his wife, Elyse, their 2 cats, Norman and Cassie, and their 2 dogs, Princess Buttercup and Duchess Dandelion.

Dave Amdor, Director of Finance, Southwest Florida International Airport



Dave Amdor is the Department Director - Finance for the Lee County Port Authority that oversees Southwest Florida International Airport and Page Field Airport in Fort Myers, Florida. Mr. Amdor is responsible for administering all operating budgets, fiscal controls, and developing financial and reporting systems utilized by the Port Authority. Other responsibilities include both long and short term financial planning and procurement.

He is a certified public accountant and member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, as well as a certified member (C.M.) of the American Association of Airport Executives.

Chris Wimsatt, Deputy Director, Finance and Administration, Sacramento County Airport System



Chris Wimsatt is a Deputy Director of the Sacramento County Airport System, and oversees all Finance & Administrative functions to include Rates & Charges, Budget Development, Capital Finance, Accounting, Procurement, and Information Technology. Chris manages a staff of 40 employees in the management of the Airport System's more than \$250 million operating budget while overseeing financing needs related to SMForward, Sacramento's \$1.3 billion capital improvement program.

Prior to joining the Sacramento Airport System in 2021, Chris held several public financial management roles in Ohio and has more than 10 years of experience in public and private sector financial leadership. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and a Master's degree in Business Administration.

Gregg Hornsby, Director of Finance, Columbia Metropolitan Airport



Gregg received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina in 1985 and is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of South Carolina.

The first thirteen years of his career was in the healthcare industry at a large insurer and a large teaching hospital affiliated with the University of S.C. School of Medicine. While in healthcare he served in audit roles and later in general accounting roles associated with budgeting, external audits and treasury management.

Gregg's industry specialty changed from healthcare to aviation in 1998 when he became the Director of Finance for the Columbia Metropolitan Airport. His finance responsibilities include general accounting, treasury management, budgeting, and reporting. Administrative responsibilities were added in 2006, and include procurement, contract management, human resources and employee benefits.

During his tenure as Director of Finance, he has been involved in several bond issuances (new and refinancing) for airfield, terminal, parking, and commercial real estate projects. He has also served as the Airport's representative in four airline agreement negotiations, transitioning from a fully residual to a hybrid agreement.

He is an active member of the Airports Council International-North America's CFO group and is a member of the S.C. Association of Certified Public Accountants.

Gregg is retired from the United States Navy Reserve at the rank of Captain (Supply Corps) after a 24-year career in logistics.

**Marsha Johnson, Deputy Director, Airport Finance and Administration,
Tallahassee International Airport**



Marsha Johnson is the Deputy Director of Airport Finance and Administration at the Tallahassee International Airport. She has been at the Tallahassee International Airport for over 3 years.

Marsha has over 30 years of professional experience serving the public and private sectors.

Before working at the Airport, she worked in several key positions for the Florida Department of Transportation. She retired with over 30 years of service.

Marsha earned her BBA from the University of Texas at Austin and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant.

She enjoys volunteering and spending time with her family.

David Tipton, Director, Finance/ CFO, Bill & Hillary Clinton National Airport



David Tipton leads the finance team at Clinton National Airport (LIT), which is responsible for all accounting and financial management functions of the state's largest airport.

Tipton, a Certified Public Accountant and Chartered Financial Analyst, joined Clinton National Airport in 2012. His background includes serving as a controller for an electrical wholesale company as well as an analyst and accountant for one of the world's largest petroleum companies.

Tipton earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Arkansas Tech University. He is a Certified Member of the American Association of Airport Executives.

Rob Palmer, Vice President, Finance & CFO, The Calgary Airport Authority



Rob joined The Authority's executive leadership team in 2016 as VP, Commercial, Strategy and CFO. He is a senior finance leader with over 20 years of financial and strategic management expertise, executing on business plan development, corporate finance and accounting and program management. Rob's experience spans multiple industries, including aviation, real estate, consumer packaged goods and technology. Rob is responsible for all aspects of finance, accounting, supply chain, strategy, planning, and commercial services. Rob is a Chartered Professional Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the

University of Manitoba.

Rob volunteers his time as the Chair of the Calgary TELUS Convention Centre's Audit Committee.

1:30 PM – 2:45 PM – Session 7A/C: Roundtable with Airlines

Marge Basrai, Executive Vice President and CFO, Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority



At MNAA, Marge is responsible for payroll, budgeting and accounting, cash and investment strategy, debt management, insurance, and risk management, grant financial administration, oversight of rates and charges, air service development and airline affairs, and Concessions.

Ms. Basrai has 22 years of accounting and financial management experience in the aviation industry. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) and a Certified Member (C.M.) of AAAE. Ms. Basrai earned a B.A. in Accounting and an MBA from Michigan State University.

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM – Session 8C: Roundtable with Rating Agencies

Tatiana Starostina, Chief Financial Officer, Los Angeles International Airport



Tatiana Starostina brings 17 years of experience in the aviation industry to LAWA, where she serves as the Chief Financial Officer. In this role, she oversees all Department financial and accounting functions including financial reporting, rates and charges, grants administration, budget, accounting operations, financial systems and all debt/financing related functions for LAWA's two airports: Los Angeles International (LAX) and Van Nuys general aviation.

Most recently, Ms. Starostina served as the Assistant Director of Aviation – Business and Strategy at the Port of Oakland and previous to that she served as the Port of Oakland's Manager of Financial Planning. Starostina helped maintain Oakland International Airport's strong financial footing and helped modernize the airport's ratemaking methodology. Previous to her positions at the Port of Oakland, Ms. Starostina worked at the Port of Portland as the Senior Manager for Financial Analysis and Projects and United Airlines as the Regional Manager for Airport Affairs, Corporate Real Estate. At United Airlines, she was charged with managing a portfolio of large and medium hub airports and served on Airline-Airport Affairs Committees, overseeing capital improvement, negotiating airport-airline agreements and evaluating rate making methodologies.

Starostina holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in analytical finance, strategy, accounting and decision science. She was named the Medium Airport Finance Professional of the Year by ACI-NA in 2019.

