Thriving Airports Support a Thriving America

Airports have a footprint in every community in America and are critical to our country’s economic success. Airports support 11.5 million jobs in the United States and produce an annual economic output of $1.7 trillion. Continued infrastructure investment and reduced regulatory burdens for America’s airports will support good-paying jobs, stimulate the economy, advance important environmental goals, and improve the passenger experience for millions of travelers.

U.S. Airport Infrastructure Needs Increase to $151 Billion

Airport infrastructure in the United States needs have swelled to $151 billion through 2027. The total cost of these critical projects dwarfs the funding available through annual Airport Improvement Program grants, Passenger Facility Charge user fee collections, grant funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and net income generated by airports.

Maxed Out Airports

Regulatory burdens, inflation, and increased costs have hamstrung airports for decades and continue to constrain the industry’s ability to invest in infrastructure. When the Passenger Facility Charge user fee is maxed out, airports aren’t able to fund needed infrastructure projects that help the airport keep pace with growth in passenger and cargo volume.

Outdated Terminals Top U.S. Airport Needs

Airport infrastructure needs span the entire infrastructure ecosystem, but terminal projects make up the bulk of airport needs. For 2023 through 2027, terminal building projects represent 43 percent of the total infrastructure development. Terminal building projects are those necessary to accommodate more airlines and more passengers, improve the efficiency of passenger and cargo processing, increase levels of service, and embark and/or continue on the decarbonization pathway.

Simple Policy Solutions to Fix U.S. Airport Infrastructure

Increasing AIP funding, expanding AIP eligibility, modernizing the outdated PFC, and reducing regulatory burdens would allow airports to use funds in a way that benefits them the best, which in turn benefits the communities they serve.