

A T H E N S - B E N E P P S A I R P O R T

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2023



COMFORTABLY CONNECTING ATHENS TO THE WORLD



1010 Ben Epps Drive • Athens, GA 30605 • 706.613.3420 • airport@accgov.com • www.flyathens.com

Table of Contents

1	Airport Location & Convenience
2	Airport Director's Message, Mission Statement & Vision
3	Key Highlights & Results
4	Economic Impact & Other Contributions to the Community
5	AHN as a Destination - Dimensions
6	Airport Key Features, Services & Facilities
8	Capital Improvement Projects
9	Capital Improvement Projects and The Future

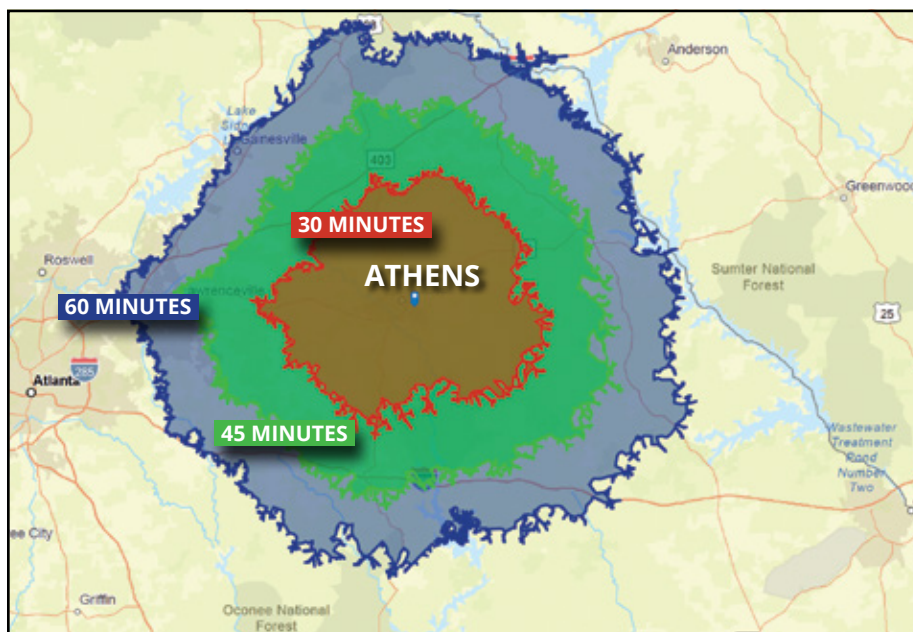


AIRPORT LOCATION AND CONVENIENCE

The distance from Downtown Athens at the UGA arch to the airport is 3.5 miles and 9 minutes by car, accessed via Highway Rt 10 Bypass; GA 78 Lexington; entrance on Old Winterville Road, also via Cherokee Road then Buddy Christian Road. The address is 1010 Ben Epps Drive, Athens, Georgia 30605.



Map: www.accgov.com/1096/Location



Driving Time to/from Athens-Ben Epps Airport

Map: www.esri.com

AIRPORT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE, MISSION STATEMENT & VISION



I am honored to share with you the 2023 Annual Report for the Athens Ben-Epps Airport.

The airport exceeded financial and operating performance measures in FY2023 and is well-positioned to continue this trajectory in the future. We have accomplished this due to the continued support from our community and the hard work of our dedicated staff and Airport Authority.

We have made exceptional progress this year in advancing the airport's development to meet current and future infrastructure needs. This includes the repaving of Runway 2/20 and the clearing of Runway Obstruction Free Area (ROFA).

Our staff has worked hard to provide excellent service to our General Aviation customers, as well as supporting the travel needs of local business, military, emergency aircraft, and the University of Georgia.

Again, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all stakeholders who have contributed to the success of Athens-Ben Epps Airport. Together, we have achieved significant milestones and positioned ourselves as a premier aviation hub.

AHN serves as a home to Athens' aviators and future aviators and continues the tradition that Ben Epps started in 1917.

Mike Mathews, *Airport Director*

MISSION: To promote a safe, consistent and efficient aviation environment; provide quality aviation products and services; and serve as a catalyst in the creation and development of aviation-related industry in Athens-Clarke County.

VISION: We envision being the regional airport for Northeast Georgia, driving economic development while comfortably connecting Athens to the world.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS & RESULTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 (ENDING JUNE 2023)

Total Revenues\$4,870,548

Total Expenses\$3,995,478

Net Surplus.....\$875,070

Number of Airport Operations 38,604

Up 2.5% from FY2022 representing the total number of aircraft take-offs and landings

Aircraft Based at the Airport 98

Single engine, twin engine, turbines and helicopters

Percent of Hangars Leased 100%

The airport has 70+ hangars leased

Number of UGA Teams Served 15

All but 1 UGA athletic team used the airport for flights in FY2023



AHN is one of only 9 carrier airports in Georgia. A carrier airport has FAA Part 139 Certification - meaning that it serves scheduled and unscheduled carrier aircraft with more than 30 seats OR it serves scheduled air carrier operation in an aircraft with 10-30 seats.

ECONOMIC IMPACT & OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

The airport contributed monetarily and in various other ways to the Athens-Clarke community:

\$27,841,000 Annual Economic Impact including

- \$10,051,000 Annual Payroll

- \$17,790,000 Other Spending

(items such as utilities, insurance, supplies, and routine maintenance)

These dollars include the economic impact of...

- 51,623 Annual Aviation Visitors (8th-ranked in the state)

- 332 Jobs Supported by the Airport

In addition, the airport supported state and local sales and income taxes total \$1,219,180 per year

Source: The latest (2020) Georgia Department of transportation study of Athens-Ben Epps Airport, including direct and indirect effects of the airport on the local community. All Economic Impact Data were for late 2019 or early 2020, while all other data were "pre-Covid." All Direct Economic Impacts were pre-Covid data. The Capital projects were for the five-year period 2015-2019. Reports are available at www.dot.ga.gov/IS/AirportAid/EconomicImpactStudy

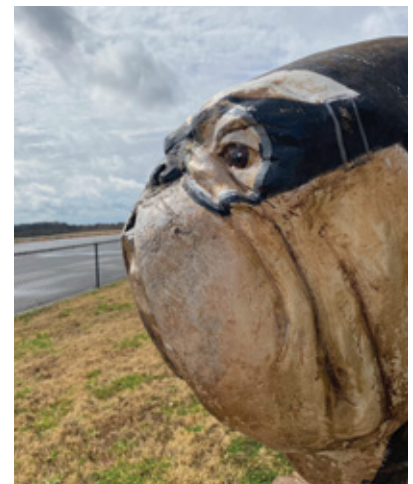
**The airport-related ad-valorem taxes (for aircraft, vehicles)
totalled approximately \$300,000**

AHN provided the ACC general fund with \$201,358 in Administrative Overhead in FY2023

**Over 50 humanitarian flights and missions (such as
Angel Flights and PilotsNPaws) originated out of AHN**

The airport also contributes to Athens-Clarke County in other key ways:

- Numerous organizations and employers depend on the airport for transportation needs
- The airport is critical to Athens' economic growth and job opportunities
- The airport is a critical connection to the outside world to help support the future development of Athens-Clarke County



AHN AS A DESTINATION



Notes: No rank ordering is implied. Individual dimensions are illustrations of what brings people to the airport and how AHN serves the aviation sector, but also the wider ACC community. Some items are active and ongoing, others are minor at present, but they may expand in the future; others are currently in development; others are proposed and scheduled for initial development in the next few years.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Passenger Service (to/from AHN) • Cargo/freight • Charters (sports teams including UGA, other) • Fuel (AVGas and Jet Fuel) • Avionics/Aircraft Maintenance • Car/truck rental (Hertz HQ is located at AHN) • Flight School, pilot training • Fly-in Events (aviation club events, public events, aircraft demonstrations) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro-Park (recreation, stewardship) • Airport Runway Children's Park & Cafe (recreation, food, recruiting next generation) • Multi-use Trails (linked to Firefly & other ACC trails, recreation, stewardship) • ACC Community Public Events (stand-alone events, or in conjunction with aviation-related events) • Food (snacks/venting machines/café/restaurant, events) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowbirds (transit stop, refuel, visit) • Tours/Field Trips (airport as a stop on day tours of Athens and vicinity; recruiting next generation) • Meetings (local organizations, ACC official meetings) • Emergency/Disaster Response (Army National Guard, Civil Air Patrol, GA State Patrol, local law enforcement staging operations) |
|---|--|---|

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP) & THE FUTURE

FY 2023

- Cleared the Runway Obstruction Free Area to increase safety

FY 2024

- Rehabilitate and overlay Runway 2/20 and upgrade runway lighting and safety areas
- Install Phase One of perimeter fencing to meet FAA standards
- Rehabilitate, construct, and overlay Taxiway Alpha and upgrade taxiway lighting
- Install a Self-Serve Avgas Unit

THE FUTURE

- Obtain commercial service is a priority of AHN. Efforts are underway to recruit a major airline
- Rehabilitate and overlay Taxiway Bravo and upgrade taxiway lighting

AIRPORT KEY FEATURES, SERVICES & FACILITIES

FEATURE	FACTS	COMMENTS
Airport Classification - 8th busiest airport in Georgia	Level III, FAA part 139	Commercial-ready airport, serving scheduled and unscheduled carrier aircraft with more than 30 seats and scheduled air carrier operation with 10-30 seats. There is no commercial service.
Runways	9/27: 6122 ft 2/20: 3995 ft	
T-Hangars	77	Hangars are at 100% use and there is a waiting list of about 20
Hours of Operation Customer Service Desk	6am-9pm M-F and 7am-9pm Sat and Sun	
On-site Aircraft Rescue/ Fire Fighting Services	AARF certified staff, AARF fire station and fire truck; Available as needed 24/7	
Fueling Facilities	AV Gas & Jet A Fuel	
Car Rental	Hertz Car Rental HQ for metro Athens in terminal	
Flight Schools & Instructors	2 Flight Schools / 5 Instructors	
Georgia State Patrol Facility	Houses the State's helicopters	
Other Organizations Located at the Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Air Patrol & Cadet CAP Program • Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 780 • UGA Aviation Club 	

STRATEGIC PLAN FY 2023

The Goals in the AHN Strategic Plan are aligned to those in the ACC Strategic plan.

GOAL #1

Enhance the Airport Infrastructure per the Capital Improvement Plan to continue to provide reliable air transportation systems which enables economic development and enriches the quality of life for ACC citizens.



Strategy 1.1 Repave and improve runway 2/20, the taxiways and the terminal aprons

- Initiative 1.1.1 Rehabilitate & overlay Taxiway A and connecting taxiways
Complete by Dec 2024
- Initiative 1.1.2 Construct additional terminal apron
Complete by Dec 2024
- Initiative 1.1.3 Rehabilitate & overlay Runway 2/20
Completed Sept 2023
- Initiative 1.1.4 Rehabilitate & overlay Taxiway B
Complete by June 2025

Strategy 1.2 Clear obstructions and install airport perimeter fencing

- Initiative 1.2.1 Clear ROFA (Runway Obstruction-Free Area) to increase safety
Completed
- Initiative 1.2.2 Install fencing to increase security and safety (Phase 1 (underway) complete by 2/2024 and Phase 2 completed by (2/2025)
Complete by February 2025

Strategy 1.3 Increase parking capacity / build a new parking lot

- Initiative 1.3.1 Design a new parking lot
Design by Dec 2024

Strategy 1.4 Construct a transient corporate hangar

- Initiative 1.4.1 Design the hangar
Complete in 2025

Note: Goal #1 intentionally excludes the new tower project since that project is not largely under the Airport's control. Coordinate with FAA (Federal Aviation Administration.) on constructing new tower.

GOAL #2

Establish Scheduled & Increase Non-Scheduled Passenger/Air Cargo Service to provide greater transportation options for ACC residents and our region for convenience and for economic growth.



Strategy 2.1 Recruit and establish scheduled air service with at least 10,000 annual passenger enplanements by December 2024

- Initiative 2.1.1 Recruit an airline for AHN-CLT (or other options) including attending air services conferences
Complete by Dec 2025

- Initiative 2.1.2 Research alternatives to traditional legacy carriers (e.g. carriers with new business models, multi modal options)
2024
- Initiative 2.1.3 If unable to obtain a carrier for AHN-CLT (or other options) consider revising the ASD (Air Service Development) strategy to focus on another hub such as Dulles. Attend 2 air service conferences as budgets/schedules allow, with presentations to 2 airlines at each.
If 2.1.1 is not achieved

Strategy 2.2 Provide enhanced charter services to increase the enplanements by 50% from 3,000 to 4,500 by June 2021, then grow further (Achieved)

- Initiative 2.2.1 Increase enplanements by 33% to 6,000
Achieve by 2025
- Initiative 2.2.2 Pursue cargo handling options
Start in 2023 then ongoing

GOAL #3

Expand the General Aviation Experience to better serve customers and increase revenue which will help ensure the airport's future.



Strategy 3.1 Identify and enhance facilities, products and services to retain/increase our customer base and Increase annual operations to 50,000

- Initiative 3.1.1 Begin operation of self-service AV-gas fuel
Complete by April 2025
- Initiative 3.1.2 prepare and issue a RFI for a destination restaurant
Pending commercial service

Strategy 3.2 Assess/Study Space at AHN

- Initiative 3.2.1 Design & build hangars to meet demand
Design 2024, build 2025
- Initiative 3.2.2 Develop plans for the East Side hangar area, including potential of T Hangars and other uses
2024

GOAL #4

Inform and Connect Community, Businesses and Customers to provide a greater understanding of the Airport's role in the community and to build good will.



Strategy 4.1 Implement strategies for marketing, community outreach and engagement

- Initiative 4.1.1 Publish an annual report by the ACC deadline each year for the prior fiscal year beginning in 2020
Ongoing

- Initiative 4.1.2 Develop a content management plan for a quarterly newsletter and social media engagement
Ongoing
- Initiative 4.1.3 Pursue local partnerships with economic development agencies, business leaders, and community groups
Ongoing
- Initiative 4.1.4 Promote the airport's community ongoing engagement by:
 - Hosting airport/aviation events
Start in 2023, then ongoing
 - Establishing a program of non-aviation public events to be held at the airport
Start in 2023, then ongoing
 - Establishing a multi-use trail around the airport and a micro park at the airport.
Start in 2023, then ongoing
 - Pursuing aviation training/educational partnerships with local education entities
Start In 2023 then ongoing

GOAL #5

Achieve and Maintain Financial Self-Sufficiency to provide relief for tax payers and to guarantee the growth of the airport



Strategy 5.1 Maintain a revenue neutral status from ACC for operating expenses by primarily increasing operating revenue

- Initiative 5.1.1 Study the rates and fees of similar airports to understand the value of airport resources
Annually
- Initiative 5.1.2 Continue to monitor fuel prices at area airports and set competitive rates that provide a profitable margin.
Weekly
- Initiative 5.1.3 Monitor expenses and operate as efficiently as possible within the current annual budget
Monthly

GOAL #6

Create an Employee Development Culture to improve employees' existing competencies and skills to increase safety and customer service.



Strategy 6.1 Identify areas in need of improvement and critical to operate safely and efficiently

- Initiative 5.1.1 Continue to follow and meet FAA required standards and training
Ongoing
- Initiative 5.1.2 Develop additional training for employees based on safety and customer service needs
Start In 2023 and ongoing



AIRPORT STAFF

Mike Mathews, Airport Director
Davin Welter, Business Coordinator
Russ Patron, Operations Supervisor
Alton Brent, Airport Fire and Rescue
Caleb Haralson, Maintenance
Christina Morales, Customer Service Administrative Assistant

AIRPORT AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Grant Tribble, Chair
Jeff Benjamin, Vice Chair
David Asman
Diane Napier
Keith Sanders
Craig Westwood

Photo Credits: Davin Welter, 2023