

ATHENS - BEN EPPS AIRPORT

# ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2021



COMFORTABLY CONNECTING ATHENS TO THE WORLD



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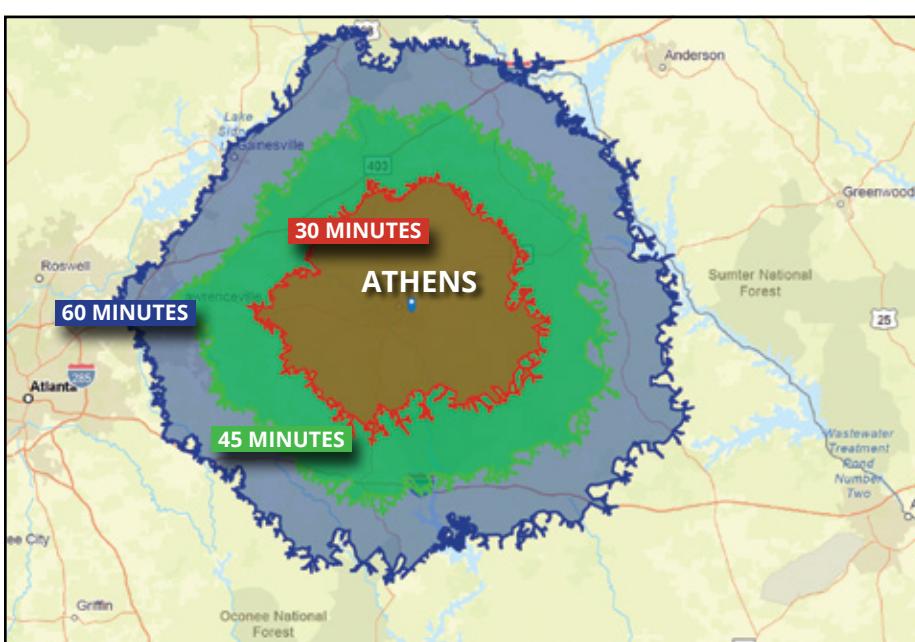


# AIRPORT LOCATION AND CONVENIENCE

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](http://www.accgov.com/1096/Location)



Driving Time to/from Athens-Ben Epps Airport

Map: [www.esri.com](http://www.esri.com)

# AIRPORT DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE, MISSION STATEMENT & VISION



I am proud to present the 2021 Annual Report for the Athens-Ben Epps Airport.

In FY2021, the airport exceeded performance expectations, surpassing the fiscal year operating budget during a year of disruption, once again, by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Athens-Ben Epps airport has been successful in surpassing its financial and operating goals for the past several years, and it is poised to continue that trend in the future.

Athens – Ben Epps Airport, and its staff, continue to work hard to give the best experience to our General Aviation customers and we continue to work diligently to bring back Commercial service to Athens and its surrounding communities.

The airport has multiple projects that were started in 2021, which include the relocation of the localizer and new equipment and the total rehabilitation of Taxiway A. These are scheduled to be completed in 2022.

The Athens-Ben Epps Airport continues to be an economic boost to Athens and the surrounding areas and will continue to do so for many years to come with the help of its great staff, the Airport Authority, its customers and the continued support of the community. We should all take pride in the accomplishments and milestones of the airport because we are all responsible for its success.

**Mike Matthews, 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 2021 (ENDING JUNE)

Total Revenues .....	\$2,670,435
Total Expenses .....	\$2,224,941
Net Surplus.....	\$445,494

*This is a very positive result, considering COVID challenges. The airport continued to be self-sustaining through COVID*

Number of Airport Operations .....	41,246
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*Up 2.5% from FY2020 despite COVID impacts, representing the total number of aircraft take-offs and landings*

Aircraft Based at the Airport .....	98
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*Single engine, twin engine, turbines and helicopters*

Percent of Hangars Leased .....	100%
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*The airport is at capacity for hangars - with a waiting list of approximately 20*

Number of UGA Teams Served .....	15
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*All but 1 UGA athletic team used the airport for flights in FY2021*

Airport Safety Accidents Reported .....	0
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*Safety is top priority for the airport*

Customer Ratings of Airport Staff.....	100%
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*On-site ratings of services provided*

Sustainability Efforts Completed
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*A gas vehicle was replaced with a hybrid. Taxiway lights were replaced with LED lights. A refueling truck was replaced with an exhaust regeneration truck that burns cleaner.*

**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](http://www.dot.ga.gov/IS/AirportAid/EconomicImpactStudy)*

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

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ahn provided the acc general fund with \$164,559 in administrative overhead in fy2021

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**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"> <li>• Commercial Passenger Service (to/from AHN)</li> <li>• Cargo/freight</li> <li>• Charters (sports teams including UGA, other)</li> <li>• Fuel (AVGas and Jet Fuel)</li> <li>• Avionics/Aircraft Maintenance</li> <li>• Car/truck rental (Hertz HQ is located at AHN)</li> <li>• Flight School, pilot training</li> <li>• Fly-in Events (aviation club events, public events, aircraft demonstrations)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Micro-Park (recreation, stewardship)</li> <li>• Airport Runway Children's Park &amp; Cafe (recreation, food, recruiting next generation)</li> <li>• Multi-use Trails (linked to Firefly &amp; other ACC trails, recreation, stewardship)</li> <li>• ACC Community Public Events (stand-alone events, or in conjunction with aviation-related events)</li> <li>• Food (snacks/venting machines/café/restaurant, events)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snowbirds (transit stop, refuel, visit)</li> <li>• Tours/Field Trips (airport as a stop on day tours of Athens and vicinity; recruiting next generation)</li> <li>• Meetings (local organizations, ACC official meetings)</li> <li>• Emergency/Disaster Response (Army National Guard, Civil Air Patrol, GA State Patrol, local law enforcement staging operations)</li> </ul>
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# 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, see page 9 for status.
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	24/7; terminal open 6am-9pm daily; On-call available	
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	2	
Georgia State Patrol Facility	Houses the State's helicopters	
Other Organizations Located at the Airport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil Air Patrol &amp; Cadet CAP Program</li> <li>• Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 780</li> <li>• UGA Aviation Club</li> </ul>	

# FY 2021 FINANCIAL RESULTS



## OPERATING REVENUES

Fuel .....	\$1,956,532
Leased Space.....	\$507,944
Fees.....	\$233,344
Concessions.....	\$16,448
Adjustments for Credit Card Fees.....	-\$43,833
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,670,435</b>

## OPERATING EXPENSES

Fuel .....	\$1,082,142
Services .....	\$518,430
Administration.....	\$261,188
General Administration.....	\$36,537
Maintenance.....	\$131,548
Sales Tax .....	\$30,537
Administrative Overheads to ACC ...	\$164,599
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,224,941</b>

*- After July of FY2021, AHN showed a surplus in every single month -*

## FY2021 FINANCIALS



# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

## FY 2021 PROJECTS

- Repair of current taxiway and construction of new segments of taxiway Alpha
- Moving and constructing a new instrument landing system localizer, used to guide aircraft along the axis of the runway

## FY 2022 PROJECTS

- Rehabilitate and repave runway 2-20
- Runway 9-27 clearing and fencing project



# THE FUTURE

## COMMERCIAL SERVICE, GENERAL AVIATION & COMMUNITY ATTRACTIONS

- Obtain commercial service is a priority of AHN. Efforts are underway to recruit a major airline.
- Build new hangars that will be rented by aircraft owners and used for airplane storage. Currently, there is a waiting list of approximately 20 applicants.
- Create an Airport Perimeter Multi-Use Bike and Walking Trail which would be a natural surface multi-trail outside the existing fence circling AHN.
- Install a Self-Serve Avgas Unit to provide more efficient and economical fuel service for our customers.
- Prepare a Master Plan Update for FY 2024.





## AIRPORT AUTHORITY MEMBERS

*Diane Napier, Chair*

*Keith Sanders, Vice Chair*

*David Asman*

*Robert Miles*

*Grant Tribble*

*Craig Westwood*

## AIRPORT STAFF

*Mike Mathews, Airport Director*

*Davin Welter, Business Coordinator*

*Russ Patron, Operations Supervisor*

*Alton Brent, Airport Fire and Rescue*

*Justin Roberts, Maintenance*

*Christina Morales, Customer Service Administrative Assistant*

*Photo Credits: Davin Welter, 2021*