

ATHENS - BEN EPPS AIRPORT

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2022

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
7	Financial Results
8	Capital Improvement Projects
9	Strategic Plan FY 2023

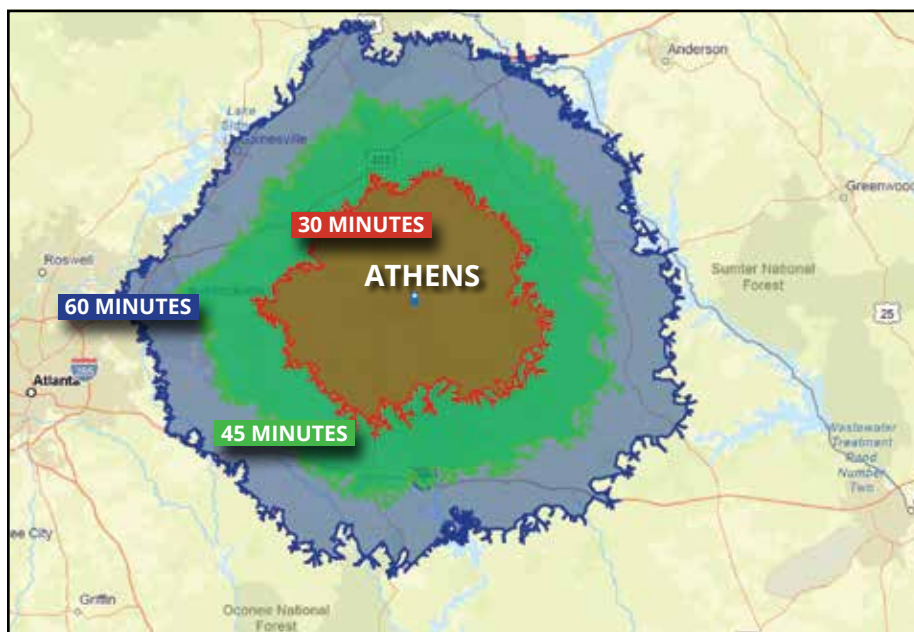


AIRPORT LOCATION AND CONVENIENCE

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 delighted to present the Fiscal Year 2022 annual report for Athens Ben Epps Airport, highlighting our achievements, milestones, and future endeavors. As the Airport Director, it is my privilege to share the progress we have made in providing exceptional services.

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to our customers, dedicated staff, the ACC Mayor and Commission, the Airport Authority, FAA, GDOT, and the local community for their unwavering support throughout the year. It is due to their commitment and collaboration that we have achieved remarkable success in enhancing the airport's operations and customer satisfaction.

Recognizing the importance of modern and efficient infrastructure, we have invested in enhancing our airport facilities and have plans for significant upgrades in the next few years.

Customer satisfaction remains at the heart of our operations. We have invested in technology and process improvements to offer a stress-free and efficient experience. Furthermore, we continue to prioritize customer feedback and actively engage with our pilots to identify areas for further improvement.

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. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, I am confident that our shared commitment and collaboration will lead us to even greater achievements.

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 2022 (ENDING JUNE 2022)

Total Revenues\$4,456,816

Total Expenses\$4,021,736

Net Surplus.....\$435,080

Number of Airport Operations 43,351

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 30+ hangars leased

Number of UGA Teams Served 15

All but 1 UGA athletic team used the airport for flights in FY2022



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)
totaled approximately \$300,000**

AHN provided the ACC general fund with \$182,874 in Administrative Overhead in FY2022

**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.

- 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)

- 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)

- 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)

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	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



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 *Complete by Aug 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 *Complete by June 2024*

Strategy 1.3 Increase parking capacity / build a new parking lot

- Initiative 1.3.1 Design a new parking lot *Design by Dec 2023*

Strategy 1.4 Construct a transient corporate hangar

- Initiative 1.4.2 Construct the hangar *Complete by 2025*

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 2024*

- 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 June 2023
- 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 2023, build 2024
- 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
Start in 2023 then ongoing
- Initiative 4.1.3 Pursue local partnerships with economic development agencies, business leaders, and community groups
Start in 2023 then 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

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 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
Justin Roberts, Maintenance
Christina Morales, Customer Service Administrative Assistant

Photo Credits: Davin Welter, 2022

AIRPORT AUTHORITY MEMBERS

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