

# 2020 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT



**Athens-Ben Epps Airport**

COMFORTABLY CONNECTING ATHENS TO THE WORLD



706-613-3420 | [www.flyahn.com](http://www.flyahn.com) | [airport@accgov.com](mailto:airport@accgov.com)

# MISSION

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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

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# VISION

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WE ENVISION BEING THE REGIONAL AIRPORT FOR NORTHEAST GEORGIA, DRIVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WHILE COMFORTABLY CONNECTING ATHENS TO THE WORLD

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A photograph of the Athens-Ben Epps Flight Center. The building is a two-story brick structure with a dark blue metal roof. It features several arched windows on the upper level and a row of arched windows on the lower level. The words "ATHENS BEN EPPS FLIGHT CENTER" are written in white on the side of the building. To the left, a tall metal pole with two American flags is visible. In the background, a control tower is partially visible against a bright, setting sun. The overall atmosphere is professional and focused on aviation.

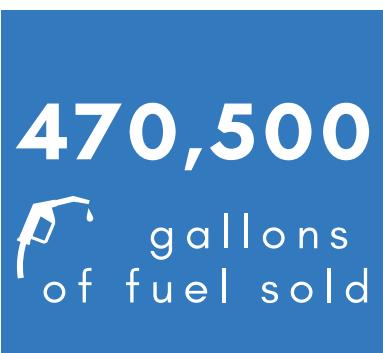
SAFETY & SECURITY

FINANCIAL  
SELF-SUFFICIENCY

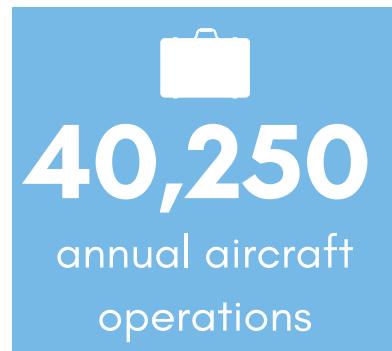
CUSTOMER  
FOCUS

EMPLOYEES  
ARE OUR  
GREATEST  
ASSET

ATHENS  
PRIDE



# A Year In Numbers



## Sources:

<sup>1</sup> FY20 Operational Measures

<sup>2</sup> Georgia Department of Transportation Economic Impact Report for Athens-Ben Epps Airport

<sup>3</sup> Airport Capital Improvement Plan (Dec. 2018)

# ECONOMIC IMPACT



*Information about the economic impact was obtained from the Georgia Department of Transportation Economic Impact Report for Athens-Ben Epps Airport (September 2020).*

## Timeline of Athens-Ben Epps Airport

Georgia's first airport is opened by Ben Epps, the state's first aviator and for whom the airport is named.

1805

1917

1970

2003

2008

2011

Athens, GA is established as a "center of learning".

Regular air service is provided to ATL and CLT averaging 18,000 enplanements in the 1990s.

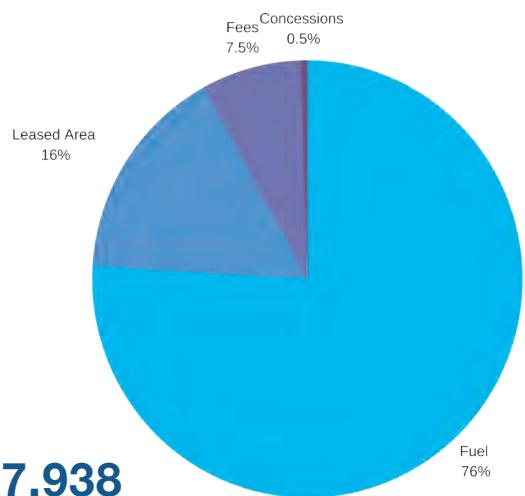
Pacific Wings Service is provided to ATL and BNA through the EAS federal subsidy.

US Air Service is provided to CLT following the EAS (Essential Air Service) federal subsidy. This includes CC Air, Mesa and Air MW.

EAS ends and Se operations. Athens has no scheduled air service.

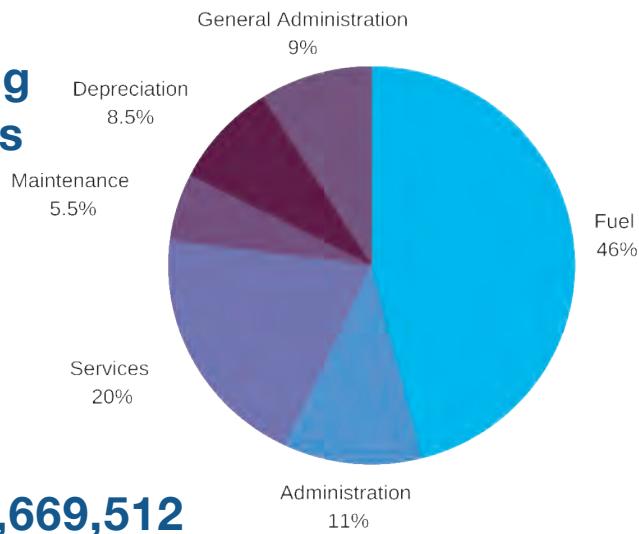
# Flying into... FINANCES

## FY20 Operating Revenue



**Total: \$2,657,938**

## FY20 Operating Expenses



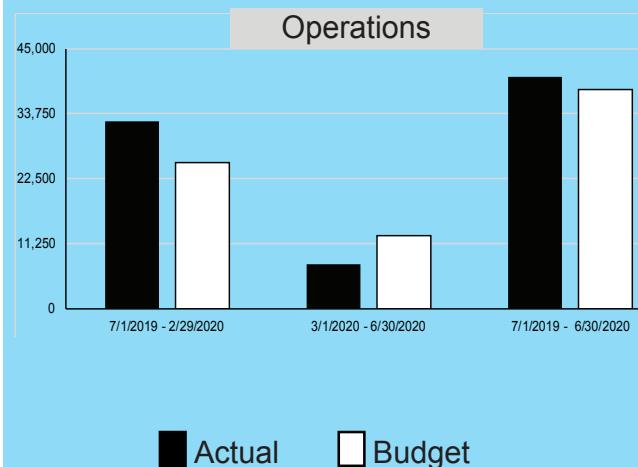
**Total: \$2,669,512**

*Financial information obtained from the FY2020 unaudited figures*

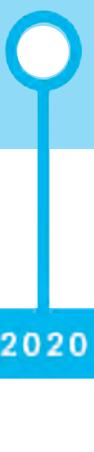
Seaport ceases  
has been without  
service ever since.

**\$11.4 M Runway Project is completed** improving  
runway 9/27 to accommodate continued use, higher  
weight capacity and future growth for aircraft operations.

## What a year...



**In FY2020, AHN exceeded performance expectations, surpassing the fiscal year Operating Income Budget by \$50K and the number of operations by 2,220. COVID-19 disrupted this monumental progress, however the airport plans to surpass performance measures in the future.**



014  
2018

2019

2019

2020

ly.

Mike Mathews joins AHN  
as Airport Director.

AHN is awarded a \$750K Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) grant from the US Department of Transportation.

# TAKING OFF

IN FY19, AHN  
COMPLETED A MAJOR  
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
THAT IMPROVED  
RUNWAY 9-27

AHN was chosen as a 2020 SPLOST recipient. With the \$5M granted this year and the additional \$30M that will be matched by the FAA and the GDOT over the next 10 years, the airport is committed to continuing these dramatic improvements to infrastructure.

## COMPONENTS OF THIS PROJECT INCLUDED:

- RECONSTRUCTING RUNWAY 9-27,
- PROVIDING A NEW PAVEMENT SUBGRADE
- NEW SIGNAGE
- NEW HIGH INTENSITY RUNWAY LIGHTS
- PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS AT INTERSECTIONS AND ADJOINING RUNWAYS



### DID YOU KNOW?

With the improved runway, AHN can now accept Boeing 737, Airbus A320, and Airbus A321 aircraft.

# Clear Skies Ahead

- Established an Air Service Development (ASD) Working Group to analyze and establish commercial service
- Awarded a \$750,000 Small Community Air Service Development Program grant to recruit passenger service
- Developed a commercial service marketing partnership with the Classic Center
- Begin nonstop service from AHN to CLT with two roundtrips per day

*AHN has been working to recruit a viable airline service and has received support from American Airlines. In a letter of support for the SCASDP grant, American Airlines indicated their willingness to consider initiating service. However, in the midst of COVID-19 airlines have faced a number of challenges. We fully support American Airlines as they work towards recovery and remain open to other opportunities that come our way.*



# FLYING INTO

## Continue enhancing facilities

SELECTED BY ATHENS-CLARKE  
COUNTY AS A 2020 SPECIAL  
PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES  
TAX (SPLOST) PROJECT,  
ALLOCATING THE FUNDS  
TOWARDS...



CONSTRUCTION OF A  
TRANSIENT AIRCRAFT HANGAR — REPAVEMENT OF RUNWAY 2  
AND TAXIWAYS — IMPROVEMENTS TO THE  
TERMINAL BAGGAGE AREA AND PARKING LOT

## Strategic Planning

DEVELOPED AND LAUNCHED A **STRATEGIC PLAN\*** INCLUDING...



INITIATING  
MARKETING AND  
OUTREACH  
ACTIVITIES TO  
BETTER INFORM  
THE COMMUNITY  
AND OUR  
CUSTOMERS



ACHIEVING  
FINANCIAL SELF-  
SUFFICIENCY BY  
INCREASING  
OPERATING  
REVENUES



ENHANCING  
GENERAL AVIATION  
FACILITIES,  
PRODUCTS, AND  
SERVICES TO  
**INCREASE ANNUAL  
OPERATIONS TO  
50,000**

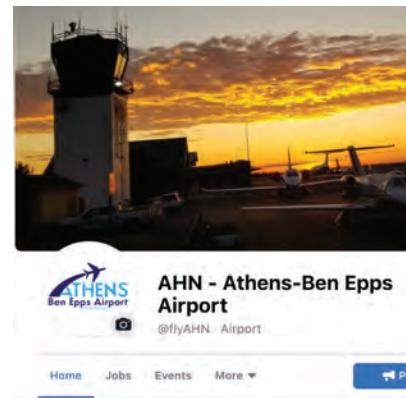
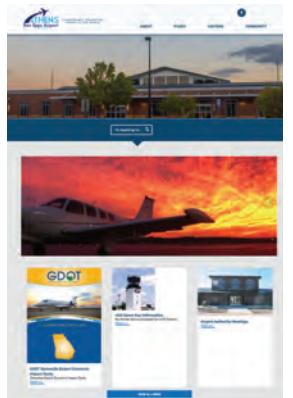
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVED MANAGEMENT REPORTING HAS BEEN A KEY FACTOR IN THE SUCCESS OF OUR STRATEGIC RESULTS.

\*Strategic Plan can be found at <https://www.accgov.com/DocumentCenter/View/61827/Airport-Authority-Strategic-Plan-Adopted-August-2019-PDF>

# THE FUTURE

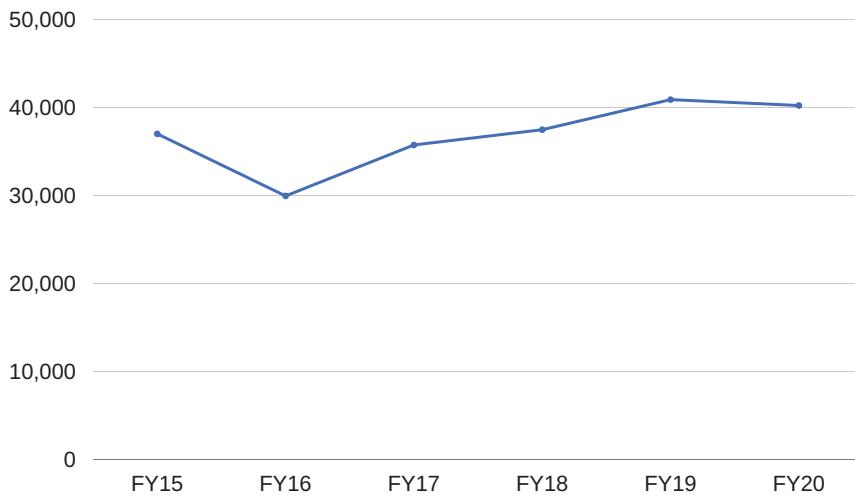
## Enhancing community engagement

THE AIRPORT IS COMMITTED TO BOOSTING COMMUNITY COLLABORATION THROUGH INCREASED **SPEAKING APPEARANCES**, INVOLVEMENT WITH **LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**, AND **PROVIDING EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR UGA STUDENTS**. IN ADDITION, A NEWLY LAUNCHED **WEBSITE**, THE CREATION OF A **FACEBOOK PAGE**, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A **TENANT NEWSLETTER** WERE SIGNIFICANT STEPS IN THIS PROCESS.



## Making progress

### AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS



**37% IMPROVEMENT FROM FY16**

IN SEPTEMBER 2019, THE GEORGIA BULLDOGS DEFEATED THE NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH 23-17. OVER A THREE-DAY PERIOD, THE AIRPORT RECORDED...

**600+** TAKEOFFS  
**30,000+** GALLONS OF FUEL SOLD  
**120+** PLANES PARKED



Information obtained from FY15, FY16, FY17, FY18, FY19, and FY20 Operational Measures



## OUR WINGMEN

A variety of businesses and organizations operate at the airport, providing employment and stimulating economic growth



From left to right: UGA Aviation Club, Air Traffic Control, Georgia State Patrol

### Businesses include:

- The Flight School of Athens
- C-Ray Avionics
- Aero Services maintenance center
- Hertz Rent-A-Car
- Georgia State Patrol Aviation Division
- U.S. Military
- Transportation Safety Administration
- Georgia Forestry Commission

### Clubs and organizations include:

- Civil Air Patrol
- University of Georgia Aviation Club
- Experimental Aircraft Association, Charter #780

**78** on-site employees

**7** full-time AHN employees



# TESTIMONIALS

"Athens-Ben Epps Airport is a valuable resource in strengthening our economic development efforts in Athens-Clarke County, as well as providing jobs, opportunities, and quality of life for our residents and visitors."

**-Kelly Girtz**, Athens-Clarke County Mayor

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"The Athens-Ben Epps Airport provides extraordinary value to our community. The opportunity to expand into passenger service will usher in the next phase of economic development, including the creation of hundreds of new jobs, an immediate expansion of the hospitality industry in Athens, and expanded tax benefits for all Athenians. The airport is a hidden gem."

**-David Bradley**, Athens Chamber President

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"The Athens-Ben Epps Airport is vital to the hospitality industry in Athens. Air travel access is a key criterion for larger regional and national conventions, and every year we are asked by interested groups if it is available. We are extremely blessed to have a quality airport with an excellent operator already in Athens and fully believe that commercial air service will assist in the growth of the hospitality industry."

**-Paul Cramer**, Classic Center President



## Athens-Ben Epps Airport

1010 Ben Epps Drive

Athens, GA 30605

 @FlyAHN

[www.flyahn.com](http://www.flyahn.com)

## Airport Director

Mike Mathews

[Mike.Mathews@accgov.com](mailto:Mike.Mathews@accgov.com)

## Airport Authority

Lester Shindelman, Chair

Diane Napier, Vice Chair

David Asman

Robert Miles

Keith Sanders

Grant Tribble

## Design

Sarah Gardiner

