

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

# St. Louis Downtown Airport positions for continued growth in 2023

With the arrival of a new director, groundbreaking for a significant new project and expansion plans revealed for its largest tenant, 2022 was a good year for St. Louis Downtown Airport, and all signs point to more growth in 2023.

Located on 1,000 acres in St. Clair County in Cahokia Heights and Sauget, St. Louis Downtown Airport and its tenants contribute more than \$422 million in economic impact for the region and more than 1,500 full-time and part-time jobs, according to the most recent study conducted by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

“The diversity of operations occurring at St. Louis Downtown Airport contributes to our role as an economic engine for the bi-state St. Louis region and makes us a key contributor to the tremendous strength of the aviation sector in the State of Illinois,” said Mary Lamie, Executive Vice President of Multi Modal Enterprises at Bi-State Development, which owns and operates the airport as one of its enterprises.

To help lead operations into the future at the busiest airport in Illinois outside of Chicago, Bi-State Development welcomed Sandra Shore as the new director of St. Louis Downtown Airport in February. In November, Shore joined directors from four other busy airports in the St. Louis region – St. Louis Lambert International Airport, Spirit of St. Louis Airport, MidAmerica St. Louis Airport and St. Louis Regional Airport – for an



St. Louis Downtown Airport

insightful panel discussion hosted by the St. Louis Regional Freightway.

“The collaboration that takes place among our airports is unique in the aviation industry and a model for success,” said Shore. “Collectively, between airport operations and tenants, our five facilities account for more than 36,500 jobs and generate a combined annual economic impact that exceeds \$10 billion and is growing.”

St. Louis Downtown Airport will see some of that growth, where Gulfstream Aerospace is expanding its operations and adding 140 new jobs. Gulfstream is one of the tenants that will benefit from the latest infrastructure investment underway at the airport – a new ground engine run up and compass calibration pad.

Construction on the \$5.4 million project began in the fall and, upon completion in 2023, will improve production safety, reliability and efficiency, boost airport businesses and increase global competitiveness for southwestern Illinois and the State of Illinois. Five million dollars in state funding was secured for the project.

Gulfstream and other aircraft maintenance tenants will use the project’s new airfield pavement with jet blast deflectors to perform aircraft maintenance tests requiring the operation of an engine at high power on the ground for several minutes generating elevated noise levels. The new engine run up area will be located 1,850 feet from other parked aircraft and isolated from airport operations, ultimately reducing aircraft engine run-up

noise by more than 50% and accommodating the airport’s largest aircraft.

In-person events returned to the airport in 2022 in collaboration with St. Louis University’s Oliver L. Parks Department of Aviation Science (SLU). The Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) joined with SLU to host Aviation Day for Educators in June, bringing educators from six school districts in southwestern Illinois and Eastern Illinois University to the airport. SLU’s Aviation Summer Academy attracted participants from 11 states who spent a week learning about different aspects of aviation and related careers and experienced the thrill of flying. Girls in Aviation Day in October, a career expo, provided an opportunity for more than 100 young women to climb into the cockpits of various aircraft and fly planes in high-tech simulators.

Overall, flight operations remained strong at St. Louis Downtown Airport during 2022, with the airport’s enviable location just minutes from downtown St. Louis making it a popular choice for those flying into the bi-state area for business and major events. A substantial increase in charter flights can be directly correlated to the NASCAR Cup Series race held at World Wide Technology Raceway in Madison, Ill., in June, which drew 56 charter flights. The airport also recorded two of its three best months in fuel sales in the last five years in 2022, a trend expected to continue in 2023.



ST. LOUIS  
DOWNTOWN AIRPORT

# Local Address. National Access.

Close, Convenient,  
World-Class Service.



RELIEVER  
AIRPORT OF  
THE YEAR  
2020

StLouisDowntownAirport.com

DA220691