

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mikki Royce
561-829-3222
7trueblue@bellsouth.net

Tom Conboy, P.E.
561- 254-6318
tconboy@earthlink.net

CITIZEN'S GROUPS OPPOSE AIRPORT EXPANSION BOONDOGGLE

FAA Draft Environmental Impact Statement ignores reality

(West Palm Beach, FL) – A large group of citizens are uniting to oppose any proposed runway expansion for Palm Beach International Airport, (PBI). Members of the Poinciana Park, EL Cid, Grandview Heights, Southland Park and Prospect Park Neighborhood Associations, as well as Democracy for America-Palm Beach County are calling this proposal a boondoggle.

“Based on current capacity, the need for an expansion is not justified now or in the future”, explains President of the Poinciana Park Neighborhood Association Tom Conboy, “The cost of this project is projected to be between 350 to 731 million dollars. We cannot afford to waste this kind of money on a project we do not have a need for, when we are facing such bleak economic times”.

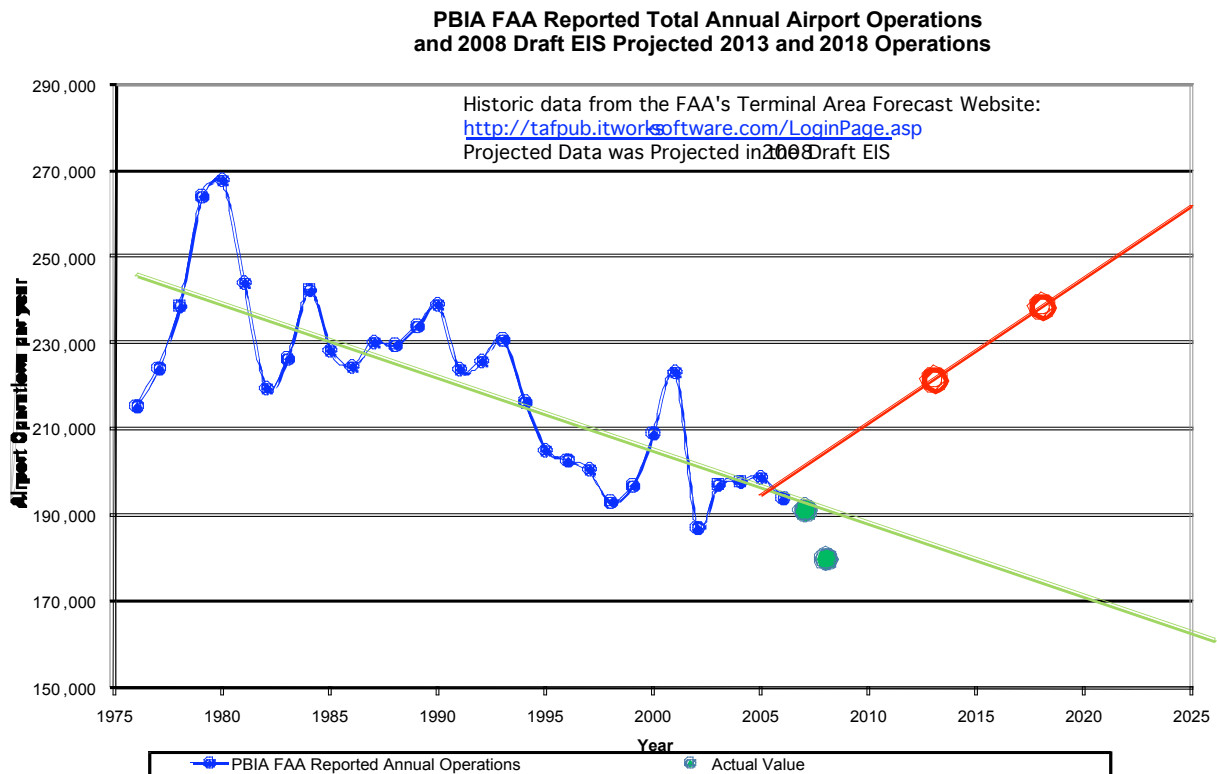
The FAA spent almost 2 years and over 2.3 million dollars on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluating a runway expansion for PBI. The groups have done their own research and discovered that in Fiscal Year 2008 PBI recorded the lowest number of takeoffs and landings in the available data dating back 32 years. Further, the FAA did not evaluate present day impacts at the airport, instead they evaluated projected

-MORE-

impacts in the year 2013 and 2018. These projected impacts were based upon projected operations (take offs and landings) which do not appear to take into consideration the downward trend in the number of operations beginning in 1980. There are additional objections.

“If any expansion project is built it will cost more to fly out of PBI than if the No Action Alternative is selected,” Conboy states. “It will have a negative impact on businesses that rely on this important economic engine, plus noise will be increased significantly in surrounding neighborhoods affecting quality of life and dropping property values.”

The chart below shows that this study is based only on future projections (two red dots) of airplane operations for the years 2013 and 2018, not data from 2008. The second green dot shows the number of aircraft operations for 2008 - the lowest on record in the last 32 years. These projections were taken from the 2006 PBI Airport Master Plan and FAA Terminal Area Forecast. The green line is the linearly interpolated trend for the historic data. The red line is the projected trend.



The groups feel that no viable explanation to date has been provided for the extreme change in projected trends at PBIA and that a new study based on current information should be created. Citizens are encouraged to contact their local County Commissioner. Additional information can be found at: www.nopbiaexpansion.org or for further information please contact Tom Conboy, President Poinciana Park Neighborhood Association, 561-254-6318.

#