

THE AIRPORT JOURNAL

LEHIGH VALLEY AIRPORT SYSTEM 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

Since 1974, an underground tunnel has directly connected passengers between the Main Terminal and the Satellite Concourse at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE).

That route has changed!

“Service isn’t just one of our core values, service is what this airport is known for within the region,” said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

Airport officials unveiled the new \$38-million TSA Checkpoint / Terminal Connector with U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Congresswoman Susan Wild, PA Governor Josh Shapiro, other federal / state / local leaders, and organizations from across the region.

“Collectively, this infrastructure investment alleviated operational challenges, streamlined the way people will travel through ABE, and continues to position the Airport for further growth and expansion,” said Stoudt.

Passengers and airport stakeholders started using the facility in August 2023.

“This was one of the very first projects that we were able to announce last year that we funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL),” said Secretary Buttigieg, U.S. DOT.

The new facility addresses critical operational needs which include: an additional lane for TSA security screening (with the potential for expansion), improved vertical circulation equipment, shorter walking distances with separation of arriving and departing passengers, and a medical-grade air purification system (LifeAire).

ABE is the first airport in the world to install a LifeAire System – which is built in the Lehigh Valley. This system reduces airborne pathogens (including COVID-19) by more than 99% and achieves a 96% reduction in harmful surface pathogens in a recent healthcare study.

“The Airport has served as a critical piece of infrastructure and economic driver for the Lehigh Valley. It has provided jobs, brought visitors, and connected our thriving local economy to the rest of the country and the world,” said U.S. Congresswoman Susan Wild.

“The additional space increases our capacity to screen more travelers comfortably and efficiently than the previous space allowed. The environment of the new space is a once-in-a-generation modern checkpoint not only built for today, but also with an eye toward the future with infrastructure for state-of-the-art technologies as they come online,” said Karen Keys-Turner, Transportation Security Administration Federal Security Director for ABE.

Besides the financial commitment of the LNAA, the project received strong funding support from federal and state leaders.

“This expansion should send a clear message that Allentown and the Lehigh Valley are ready to drive innovation and economic opportunity on a national and global scale,” said Governor Josh Shapiro, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

AIRPORT NUMBERS RISE



ABE reported its highest passenger traffic since 2004, and a fourth consecutive year of record-breaking air cargo activity.

930,946 passengers traveled through ABE in 2023 – a two percent increase from 2022.

Additionally, air cargo operations significantly jumped for a fourth consecutive year, with 275,605,699 pounds processed through ABE in 2023 – a 15.8% increase from 2022.

“The Airport Authority is working with Aviation Facilities Company Management, LLC (AFCO) to address an immediate need for additional air cargo capacity – which has seen approximately an 800% jump since 2014. With the Airport located along the Critical Urban Freight Corridor, we anticipate the numbers will continue to trend upward,” said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority.

TRAVEL GUIDE

WE’RE FLYING WEST

Passengers at Gate 7 lined up to board the inaugural flight to the “Mile High City” - Denver, Colorado aboard Allegiant Air.

Joined by federal, state, and local officials during a ribbon cutting ceremony, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) Executive Director Thomas R. Stoudt expressed his appreciation to the region for instantly giving this new destination a strong debut.

“According to Allegiant representatives, our community responded with record ticket sales for any new route the airline has announced in recent memory,” said Stoudt.

An appreciation bag containing a copy of the Denver Lures and Visitors Guide, and a bag of a Colorado staple – Oogies Gourmet Popcorn was placed at each seat aboard the aircraft.



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As the Executive Director of the Airport Authority, I have the pleasure of leading a hardworking staff that is determined to deliver the highest level of service every day. By keeping the organization's core values - teamwork, humility, integrity, respect, service, and trust – as our North Star, the Airport Authority continued to add to our list of achievements in 2023. To the entire LNAA Board of Governors, and to our incredible staff, thank you!



During 2023, Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) celebrated the most significant addition to our terminal complex in nearly three decades, with the construction of a \$38-million TSA Checkpoint / Terminal Connector, which elevated the travel experience at ABE.

Additionally, the Lehigh Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) remained steadfast in our commitment to build a strong aviation system across the Lehigh Valley.

The Airport Authority has continued pushing forward on critical infrastructure upgrades throughout the aviation system to meet current and future demands of aviation within the region. The opening of our new TSA Checkpoint / Terminal Connector to the public in August 2023 became the centerpiece for a remarkable year as we brought this over 27-month long construction project in for a landing. Next stop – a renovation of the underground tunnel that was home to the original TSA Checkpoint! Over at Queen City Airport (XLL), the completion of a full-depth reconstruction of Runway 15-33 now serves both based and transient pilots alike with a renewed crosswind runway that provides

excellent wind coverage to help ensure safe aircraft operations in all weather conditions. Meanwhile, Braden Airpark was host to the 9th Annual Polo Match to raise money for Equi-librium, a nonprofit that serves individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Numbers at ABE continue to rise for both passenger traffic and air cargo volumes, while air service options increased for travelers, as Allegiant Air began nonstop service to Melbourne, Florida and Denver, Colorado. In addition, this past summer also saw American Airlines Landline Bus passengers processing through the new TSA Checkpoint at ABE before departing for Philadelphia International.

On behalf of the entire Airport Authority, I hope you read this Annual Report with pride as we outline the last twelve months for the LNAA, which included: the completion of critical infrastructure projects across all aviation facilities, expansion of air service options and customer amenities, and the continued support of community initiatives.

We hope you get the chance to experience these enhancements firsthand!

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	2023	2022	CHANGE
Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Current and Other Assets	\$ 44,897,873	\$ 36,466,684	\$ 8,431,189
Capital Assets	\$ 322,770,604	\$ 308,861,052	\$ 13,909,552
GASB 87 - Right of Use Asset - Leases	\$ 455,980	\$ 678,094	\$ (222,114)
GASB 96 - Right of Use Asset - Subscriptions	\$ 235,769	\$ -	\$ 235,769
GASB 87 - Short Term Lease Receivable	\$ 2,776,840	\$ 2,641,833	\$ 135,007
GASB 87 - Long Term Lease Receivable	\$ 16,223,160	\$ 10,280,514	\$ 5,942,646
Deferred Outflows of Resources - Pension	\$ 2,504,816	\$ 2,531,256	\$ (26,440)
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 389,865,042	\$ 361,459,433	\$ 28,405,608
Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Current Liabilities	\$ 18,635,935	\$ 18,267,324	\$ 368,611
Non-Current Liabilities	\$ 51,812,689	\$ 48,373,923	\$ 3,438,766
GASB 87 - Lease Liability	\$ 461,942	\$ 675,612	\$ (213,670)
GASB 96 - Subscription Liability	\$ 136,271	\$ -	\$ 136,271
Net Pension Liability	\$ 2,485,891	\$ 1,925,942	\$ 559,949
GASB - Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ 18,485,939	\$ 13,004,053	\$ 5,481,886
Deferred Inflows of Resources - Pension	\$ 193,252	\$ 379,860	\$ (186,608)
Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ 92,211,919	\$ 82,626,714	\$ 9,585,205
Net Position	\$ 297,653,123	\$ 278,832,719	\$ 18,820,403

TOTAL PASSENGER TRAFFIC COMPARISON

Month	2023	Percent Difference	2022	2021	2020	2019
January	66,391	33.35%	49,787	23,545	61,309	54,895
February	64,645	21.97%	53,000	26,299	70,732	58,276
March	78,216	6.86%	73,196	46,596	44,478	76,512
April	73,481	-10.74%	82,321	56,563	2,749	83,560
May	73,192	-12.35%	83,502	71,512	13,107	76,400
June	84,192	-9.13%	92,652	88,528	26,123	89,609
July	91,272	-6.29%	97,401	97,221	27,612	94,298
August	83,524	-9.99%	92,799	81,759	25,116	90,524
September	72,031	5.11%	68,531	49,330	25,545	66,854
October	84,747	7.91%	78,534	72,135	35,995	77,794
November	80,161	9.62%	73,128	70,589	30,367	71,098
December	79,094	17.34%	67,405	68,034	27,631	72,150
Total	930,946	2.05%	912,256	752,111	390,764	911,970

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

PULLING FOR A PURPOSE

Mother Nature didn't dampen the Lehigh Valley Plane Pull in support of Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) in October 2023. "Our athletes, volunteers, and teams were determined to pull with a purpose," said Julie Benjamin, Regional Executive Director, SOPA.

17 teams lined up and grabbed the rope attached to a 175,000-pound FedEx Airbus 300. The stopwatch started, and every group raced to successfully move the aircraft 12 feet.

"ABE hasn't hosted a plane pull in over a decade. From the initial conversation, the Airport was 100% onboard to host this spirited competition and support the mission of Special Olympics Pennsylvania and of course their inspirational and amazing athletes," said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

Special Olympics Pennsylvania's newest event focused on raising funds to help ensure that more than 2,700 athletes in the Greater Lehigh



Valley Pocono Region have access to year-round programs.

"SOPA provides sports, health, fitness, and leadership programs free of charge. The incredible support we've received with the Plane Pull creates opportunities for Special Olympics athletes on and off the field," said Benjamin.

Sheetz was the presenting sponsor for the event. Additional sponsors included FedEx, LNAA, Wegmans, Driscoll's Home Center, Members 1st Federal Credit Union, Law Enforcement Torch Run, Penske, and St. Luke's University Health Network.

SPACE COAST TAKEOFF

Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) and Allegiant Air launched new nonstop service in November 2023 to Melbourne, Florida – also known as the Space Coast.

Each passenger aboard the inaugural flight received a signature NASA bag from the Kennedy Space Center stuffed with goodies.

"Known for being Florida's Space Coast, this destination delivers plenty of excitement for everyone, with access to the Kennedy Space Center, a world-renowned arts district, Brevard Zoo, and fantastic beaches," said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

Before departure, a ceremonial water arch showered the aircraft.

Pennsylvania State Senator Nick Miller, Pennsylvania State Representative Jeanne McNeill, Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong, Selina Winchester (representing Congresswoman Susan Wild), and Airport Authority Board of Governors Chairman John Hayes attended the celebration.



RECORD-SETTING PERFORMANCE

Nobody was counting or watching the clock.

But, after two hours, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA) staff and members of Julabo USA, Inc. had proudly set a record in helping the community supported by the Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB) of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania.

1,080 boxes were packed for the Senior Food Box Pack Program - a federally-funded program that is designed to improve the health of low-income seniors by supplementing their diets with nutritious food.

Earlier in 2023, the LNAA made their first ever visit to SHFB and joined representatives from Olympus Corporation of the Americas and Guardian Life Insurance to pack 880 boxes for the Military Share Pack Program - which serves 150 military families (veterans, reservists, and active duty) once a month by providing a box of staple foods and additional fresh produce, dairy, and lean proteins.



THE ART OF AVIATION

Lehigh Valley muralist Matt Halm transformed a blank canvas into a mural masterpiece that encapsulated the 94-year history of ABE.

"Through a brainstorming process, we provided Matt with numerous suggestions for the design, which incorporated the many changes to the ABE travel experience over time and has been a pillar in our community since 1929" said, Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

Supported by ArtsQuest and a state grant provided by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), the project also gave Halm the opportunity to invite students from his one-week "Public Art Intensive" session held during the summer at the Banana Factory at ArtsQuest. "Muralists can facilitate public art with younger participants, that make a positive impact on their

environment which is an integral role in expanding art education throughout the Lehigh Valley," said Lisa Harms, Senior Director of Visual Arts and Education.

ABE hosted a one-day event for airport employees to work at completing the mural alongside Halm.

"We should never take projects like this for granted. The spirit of collaboration is amazing that allows something like this to happen," said J. William Reynolds, Mayor, City of Bethlehem. A public unveiling was hosted by the Airport in September 2023.



CUSTOMER CORNER

BOARDING AT GATE #14

American Airlines customers using Landline-operated motorcoaches from Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) enroute to Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) had a new takeoff point.

In July, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) issued a short-term security program amendment which enabled travelers to clear security at ABE and board the motorcoach through Gate #14 of the Wilfred M. "Wiley" Post Jr. Concourse.

Passengers now arrive at PHL beyond the TSA Security Checkpoint and proceed straight to their connecting flight.

"We have put in numerous security requirements for the bus operators and all airline personnel to ensure robust security protocols are followed at all times," said Karen Keys-Turner, TSA's Federal Security Director for the Airport. The program had been operating in a curb-to-curb manner since June 2022.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, PGD!

ABE celebrated 10-years of nonstop service aboard Allegiant Air to Punta Gorda, Florida.

Passengers went fishing for prizes that included: (2) round-trip tickets to Punta Gorda, a two-night stay at the Historic Hotel Bethlehem, and a swag bag from the Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau. Before boarding the aircraft, passengers also enjoyed a tasty travel treat provided by Amy's Creative Cakes.



FLYABE.COM IS A TRAVEL TOOLBOX

Providing easy access and mobile resources for passengers can reduce the stress of air travel.

Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) and Peer Pressure Creative – Lehigh Valley Web Design – worked together over a year-long process that concluded in 2023, to bring new features to the Airport website:

- Easy access to flight information, TSA Security Checkpoint Wait Times, and public parking availability
- More real-time travel information
- Improved navigation
- Mobile-friendly interface
- Enhanced travel calculator for comparing ABE trip costs vs. other airports
- Integration of social media platforms

AND THE WINNER IS....

Cody Templeton!

Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) invited musical performers from across the region to participate in ABE Idol 2023! The public voted on social media, and when final votes were tallied, Cody came out on top.

"I've entered other singing competitions (The Voice, American Idol), and saw this pop-up so I figured, why not try it," said Templeton.

Besides performing at Oktoberfest in Bethlehem, he also won (2) roundtrip tickets to Nashville and a hotel stay.



CODY TEMPLETON

WE GIVE YOU PROPS!



Since 2019, 129 employees throughout the Airport System have been recognized for PROPS - Positive Rewards for Outstanding Performance or Service.

Each year, the Airport Authority hosts a special luncheon to congratulate the group and say thank you for serving the region!

Learn more about our PROPS program: <https://lnkd.in/e8yQ9sUB>

The reconstruction of Runway 15-33 at Queen City Airport (XLL) is complete.

As part of a multi-phase / multi-year project, construction crews started Phase 1 in April 2023 by structurally repairing the distressed asphalt surface while strengthening the pavement section to meet future demand and anticipated aircraft weight requirements.

“Through a process called full-depth asphalt reclamation – the contractor recycled a majority of the existing three inches of asphalt and utilized the material as the base coarse prior to the final paving. This process reduces waste, reduces cost, and improves efficiency,” said Ryan Meyer, Director of Planning and Programming, Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority (LNAA).

16,120 tons of asphalt was applied during the Runway 15-33 rehabilitation. The LNAA received \$2.064 million in federal grant funding to support this portion of the project.

“Investment in infrastructure improvements remains a high priority for the Airport Authority. We are committed to ensuring that pilots and tenants have the best customer experience” said Thomas R. Stoudt, Executive Director, LNAA.

Scheduled to begin in 2024, Phase 2 of the project includes installation of upgraded LED runway signs, and a dedicated airfield electrical vault

RECONSTRUCTING A RUNWAY



RETURN TO SERVICE

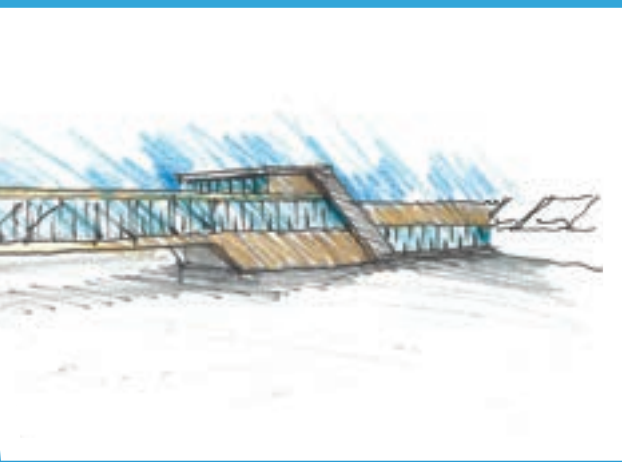
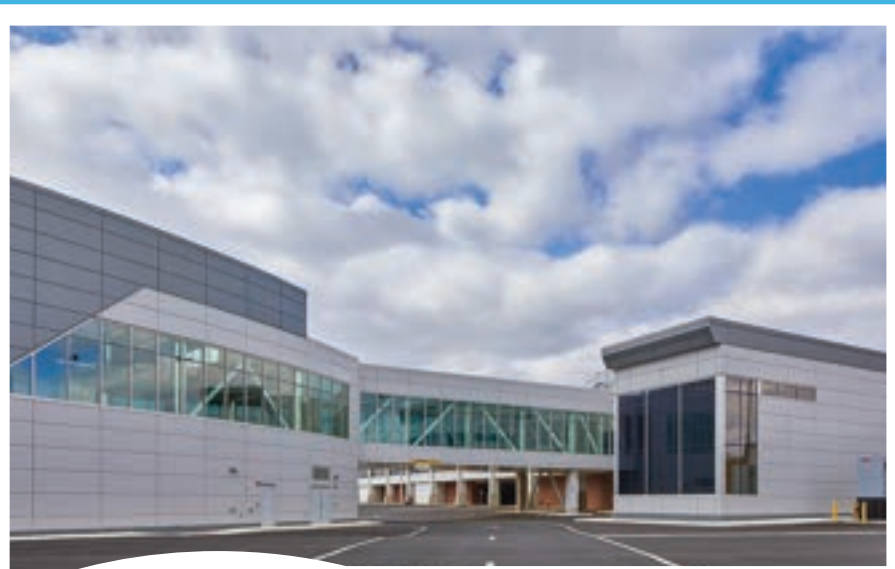
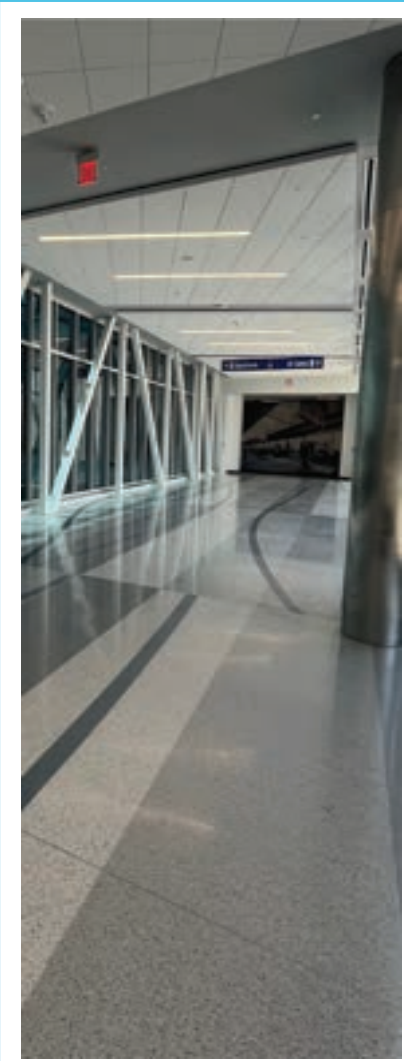
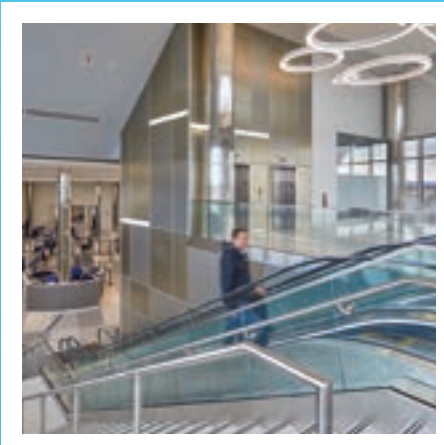


Taxiway E at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) (North of Runway 6-24) reopened for aircraft operations on March 27th.

This marks the completion of a five-year closure for reconstruction as part of the Runway 6-24 Rehabilitation Project.

The reconstruction included:

- New pavement surface
- Installation of new LED lighting and signage
- New paint markings



TSA CHECKPOINT & TERMINAL CONNECTOR

BY THE NUMBERS:

BUILDING CONCRETE

1,220 cubic yards

SITE CONCRETE

290 cubic yards

STEEL

275 tons (550,000 pounds)

GLASS

31 tons (62,000 pounds)

METAL PANELS

18 tons (36,200 pounds)

TERRAZZO FLOOR

16,800 square feet

DATA & ELECTRICAL WIRING

83 miles

ASPHALT PAVEMENT

2,370 tons

MICROPILE FOUNDATIONS

215 total with depths of 20 to 160 feet

