

Existing Facilities

Winter Haven's Gilbert Airport is served by two intersecting runways. These runways are Runway 04/22, which is 5,006 feet long by 100 feet wide and Runway 11/29, which is 3,999 feet long by 100 feet wide. The runways are both asphalt with Runway 11/29 in good condition and Runway 04/22 in fair condition. Runway 04/22 is served by a full-length parallel taxiway. Runway 11/29 is served by a partial parallel taxiway. Runway 04/22 is equipped with medium intensity runway lights. The airport has a GPS and a VOR/DME approach. The airport has a 5,000 square foot general aviation terminal building, including an attached maintenance area. There are 55 on-airport auto parking spaces to serve the terminal building. The airport also has a 1000 square foot administration area within the terminal to serve general aviation pilots and passengers. There are currently 60 tie-downs for the airport's general aviation aircraft, and between the airport's T-hangars and conventional hangars, there are 160 covered parking spaces for aircraft.

NOTE: In 2004, Florida experienced a record number of hurricanes, with many airports in Florida sustaining various amounts of damage. Since this report was in print at the time, facilities and based aircraft identified in this report do not reflect damage to infrastructure that may have occurred as a result of those hurricanes. Future reports will identify the impact of storm damage.

Current and Forecast Demand

GENERAL AVIATION

The largest plane that uses the airport on a regular basis is the Citation Jet III. The current Airport Reference Code (ARC) as defined by the FAA Circular 150/5300-13 for the airport is B-II for Runway 4/22 and B-I for Runway 11/29. The airport currently reports 180 based general aviation aircraft. Of this total, approximately four percent of the aircraft are stored on paved tie-downs, and 90 percent are in T-hangars or conventional hangars. The airport reports a waiting list for hangar space for 30 aircraft. The current FDOT Work Program for Winter Haven shows additional T-hangars, and executive hangars. It should be noted that FDOT records for this airport show 171 based aircraft for 2002.

Historic and forecast FDOT aviation activity information on file for Winter Haven's Gilbert Airport follows:

Winter Haven's Gilbert Airport	2002	2007	2012	2022
Based Aircraft	171	186	203	242
General Aviation Operations	70,012	80,000	93,000	120,000
Commercial Operations	0	400	450	600
Enplanements	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Demand/Capacity Ratio	30.7%	32.3%	33.9%	37.5%

Source: Airport records and TAF 2004.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

In its current role, the airport focuses primarily on general aviation and corporate aircraft. The airport is a general aviation, non-reliever airport. It accommodates two flight schools, including one seaplane base. Winter Haven's Gilbert Airport has an average of 15 corporate operations monthly that include both corporate jets and turboprops. Winter Haven's Gilbert Airport is located in an uncontrolled corridor between the Tampa and Orlando Class "B" airspaces for traffic transiting across Florida. The airport could support SATS related air taxi operations. It

sees itself experiencing modest growth in the coming years. The airport's vision for its future is to provide a first-class airport facility commensurate with Winter Haven's growth plans. The vision for the airport is to expound and amplify the business and corporate air traffic to and from Winter Haven's Gilbert Airport. The construction of an Airport Business/Commerce Park on the north side of the airfield is in the planning stage, with grant funding being pursued.

Flight training is a component of this airport's general aviation activity. Roughly 50 percent of the airport's annual operations are related to flight training. There are two different businesses located on the airport that provide flight training; these businesses employ nine total flight instructors and have five aircraft that are based at the airport. General aviation operations by corporate and business users are also common at the airport. The airport estimates that 15 percent of its annual general aviation operations are business related. Approximately 20 percent of the airport's based aircraft are owned by local businesses. The airport also attracts a number of transient or visiting general aviation aircraft. Visiting businesses that fly into the airport include aircraft from the same companies that base their aircraft at the airport. Approximately five percent of all visiting general aviation aircraft fall into the business jet category. While the airport does not have any based military aircraft, it does accommodate transient military operations. The airport reports that one percent of its total annual activity is attributable to military operations. These military operations are performed primarily by visiting National Guard and Air Guard helicopters.

OTHER AIRPORT CHARACTERISTICS

The airport had its most recent master plan completed in 1996. An update was completed in 2004. Rehabilitation of Runway 11/29 was recently completed. Construction of a New Terminal Building, a Hangar home complex, and Development of an Airport Business/Commerce Park are in the planning phases.

CURRENT AND FUTURE SYSTEM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

The airport has several flight schools, including Jack Brown's Seaplane School (which is actually at the adjacent seaplane base). The airport also provides Recreational/Sport and Corporate services. The airport plans to increase its level of service to business users by constructing a new terminal building. Because of the presence of multiple flight schools, the airport should continue to provide Flight Training service. According to the analysis, it has only marginal ability to provide any other services. Because of its relationship with Jack Brown's Seaplane Base, it is deemed a good candidate for providing Tourism (CA) service since pilots can fly into Winter Haven Gilbert in order to take seaplane instruction at the adjacent seaplane base.

COMMERCIAL SERVICE ROLE	Current Service	Future Service
Tourism		
Business		
Air Cargo		
International		
COMMUNITY AIRPORT ROLE		
Flight Training	X	X
Corporate	X	
Tourism		X
Recreational / Sport	X	
Business / Recreational		