



# Airport Authority

Growth Management Department

Quarterly Newsletter

New Marco Airport  
Terminal Facility

Story Pg. 1

Economic  
Development

Story Pg. 5

Project Updates

Story Pg. 7

First Edition



Publication of the Collier County  
Growth Management Department

Airport Authority  
Quarterly Newsletter  
1st Edition

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Andrew Bennett – Executive Airports Manager

**A Brief Introduction**

Andrew Bennett joined the Collier County Airport Authority in July of 2016, where he first served as Operations Manager for the Immokalee Regional Airport and the Everglades Airpark. Effective January 2021, Andrew assumed the role of Executive Airports Manager, tasked with overseeing the daily operations and capital development of Collier County’s three general aviation airports: Marco Island Executive Airport, Immokalee Regional Airport, and the Everglades Airpark.

Prior to relocating to Florida, Andrew worked as an associate with KPMG, LLP’s Global Mobility Practice in Atlanta, GA. However, his passion for aviation was cultivated over many years of dedication and service in various capacities at the Tom B. David Airport in his hometown of Calhoun, GA.

Andrew obtained his Private Pilot’s license at age 18, he is a Certified Member of American Association of Airport Executives, a Certified Public Manager through Florida State University’s Askew School of Public Administration and holds a bachelor’s degree from Kennesaw State University.

**Collier County Airport Authority Newsletter - First Edition**

This First Edition of the Collier County Airport Authority (CCAA) Newsletter introduces you to the various county airports and several current projects. aimed at serving customers in ways that keep them coming back and encouraging others to do the same.

We welcome your newsletter topic suggestions, please send your suggestions to [Suggest A Topic](#).

Thank you for your continued support of the Collier County Airport Authority.

Andrew Bennett  
Executive Airports Manager  
Collier County Airport Authority  
Growth Management Department

# Airport Authority

Growth Management Department

## contents

- New Marco Airport Terminal Facility ..... 1
- Economic Development ..... 5
- Project Updates ..... 7
- Operations Activities ..... 11
- Employee Spotlight ..... 12



# Introducing the New Marco Airport Terminal Facility



## RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY APRIL 28, 2021

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
Wednesday, April 28, 2021  
Marco Island Executive Airport  
2005 Mainsail Drive, Naples, Florida 34114

### STAY INFORMED ON COLLIER COUNTY AIRPORT FUEL PRICES

Check fuel prices online 24/7.

Go to [AirNav.com/fuel/local.html](http://AirNav.com/fuel/local.html)  
Enter the following information:

- Zip Code or Airport Code
- Fuel Type



### SIGN UP! TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR FLIGHT SCHOOL

Contact the Collier County Airport Authority for Training Schedules.

Whether you're brushing up on skills or plan to get your pilot license, check out Flight Training at the Collier County Airports today.

Call for information (239) 642-7878.



Want to know more about a specific Collier County Airport? Just let us know what you'd like to learn more about, and we'll consider your topic for the next CCAA Newsletter. Please use the [Suggest A Topic](#) button and send us your suggestions.

### VISIT THE NEW MARCO FACILITY TERMINAL

Visit the new Marco Island Airport Facility Terminal and then enjoy a leisurely lunch on beautiful Marco Island!



[see more on page 3](#)

“ The most effective way to do it, is to do it. ”  
- Amelia Earhart

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Collier County Airport Authority and Marco Hangars, LLC are working to further expand airport facilities.



[continued on page 5](#)



## NEW MARCO AIRPORT TERMINAL FACILITY

*continued from page 2*

The Marco Island Executive Airport supports tourism, recreational and business travel. The airport also offers flight training services and is home to the Marco Island Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol, which serves as the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force, performing key missions that include emergency services, search and rescue missions and disaster relief operations.

In the spring of 2018, the Collier County Airport Authority, in participation with the Florida Department of Transportation, embarked on the journey of constructing a new terminal facility that would best serve the needs and expectations of residents and transient customers. The previous terminal facility and infrastructure was constructed in 1974 by a private operator and over time has grown to become incompatible with current Federal Aviation Administration design standards. The previous facility was simply too close to our active runway.

The expansion is part of a multiphase initiative to modernize our public services while improving passenger and pilot safety. The new 16,500-square-foot terminal features modern amenities such as a pilot and passenger lounge, flight planning stations, airport administrative offices, lease space for aeronautical business operations, air charter operators, and rental car concessions. Within one month



*New facility interior - lobby, lounge, arrival/departure gate*

of occupying the facility, while recovering for a pandemic no less, staff has witnessed tremendous value in additional space afforded which allows us to better serve our residents and customers.

The Marco Island Executive Airport hosts an estimated 58,400 aircraft operations per year. In 2019 the Florida Department of Transportation conducted a comprehensive economic impact analysis measuring on-airport, visitor spending, and multiplier impacts from aviation activity at the Airport. The assessment reported a total annual economic impact of \$31.7 million with an on-airport impact of \$11 million.



# COLLIER COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*continued from page 2*

Marco Hangars, LLC commenced construction of eight (8) 70' x 56' and three (3) 110' x 80' box hangars back in early January 2021 at the Marco Island Executive Airport. The Authority approved a Leasehold Agreement with Marco Hangars, LLC to construct aircraft storage hangars with the impetus arising from an extremely high demand for aircraft storage hangars. The Leasehold Agreement provided an opportunity to fulfill customer demand, while generating additional revenue through lease proceeds and fuel sales, without the significant upfront capital expense required by the Authority, with the added benefit of the construction of common-use infrastructure that will become the property of the Authority, including the construction and extension of an internal airport access roadway that will extend from the terminal parking lot to the leasehold property site.



Marco Hangar Development (above)

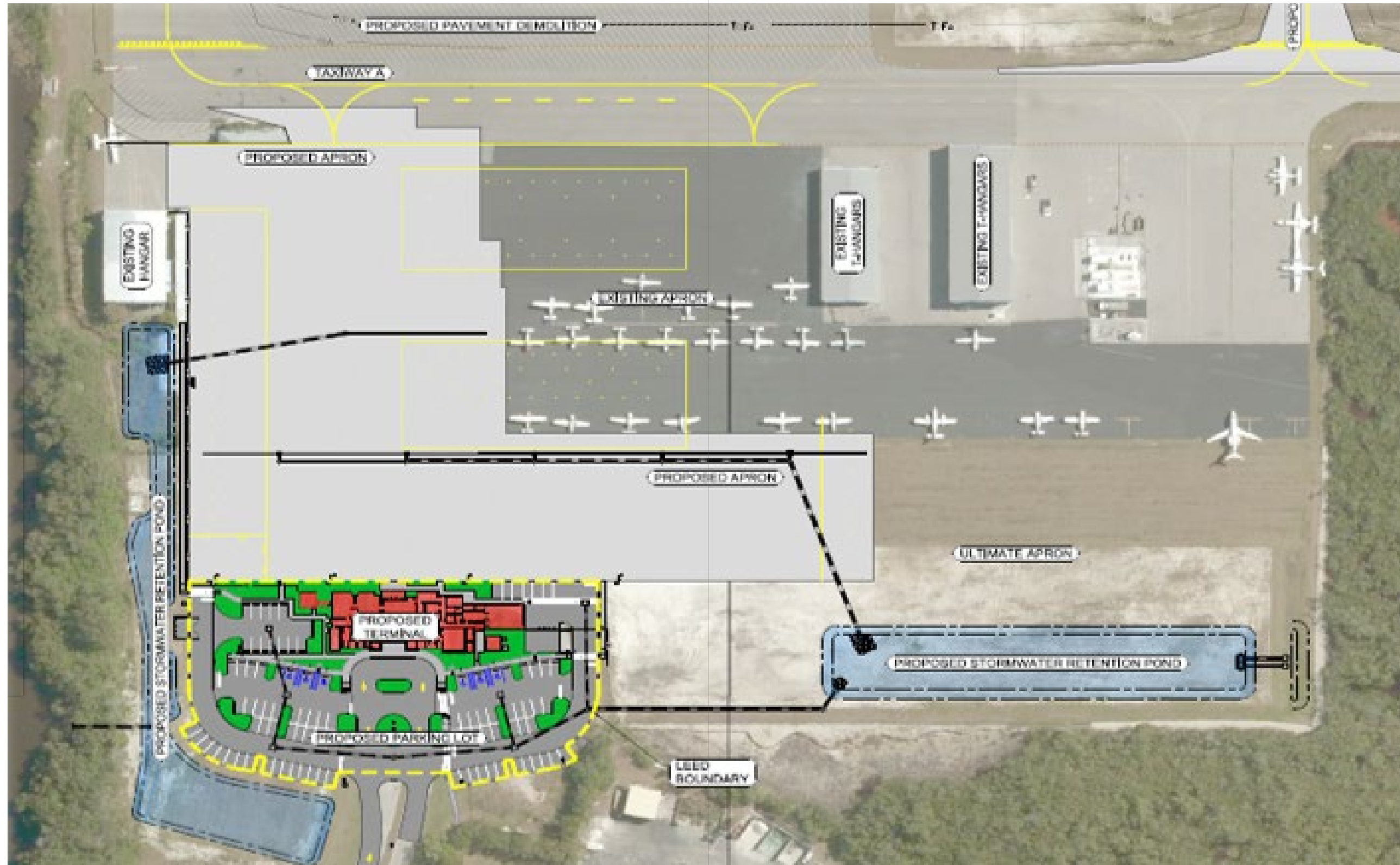


Jet being serviced at Immokalee Regional Airport

# PROJECT UPDATES

## 1. Marco Island Executive Airport - Apron Expansion

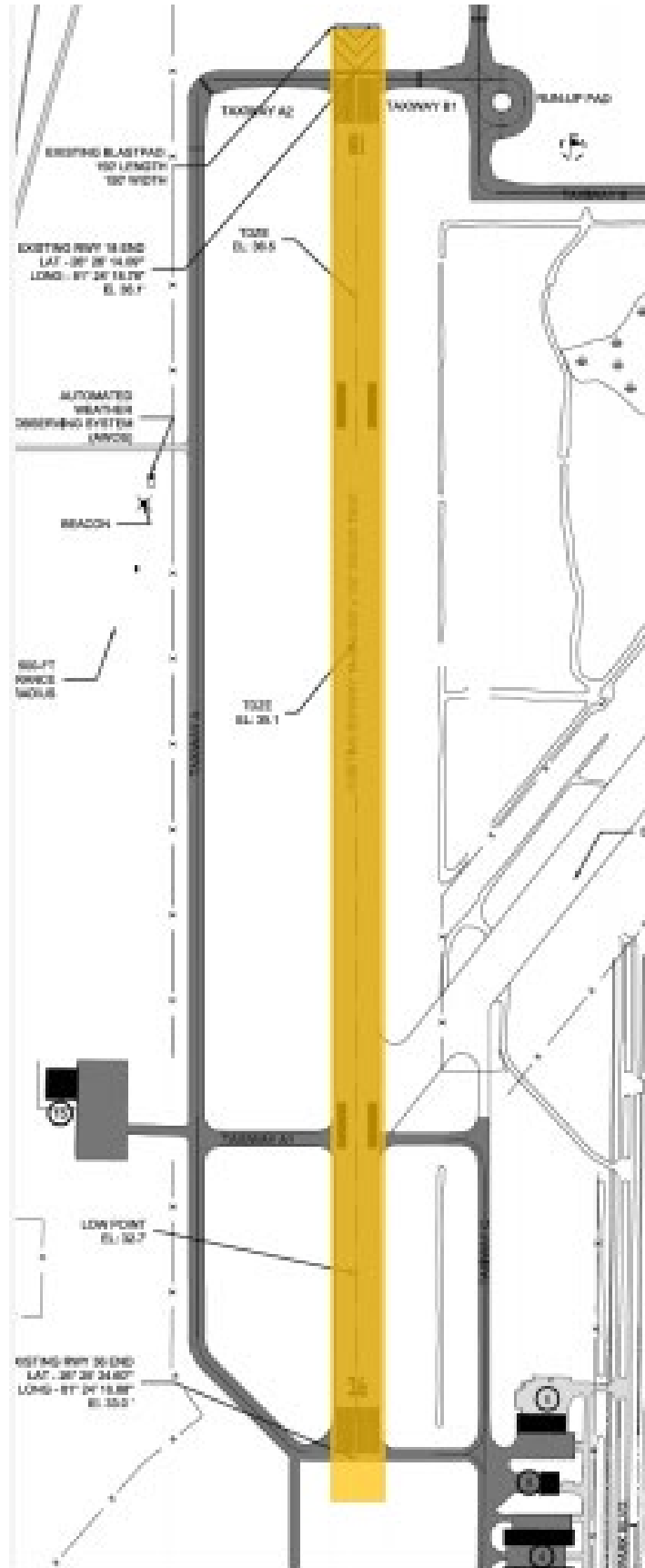
With FAA (90%) and FDOT (5%) support, Quality Enterprises was selected to complete this construction project which includes demolishing the old terminal facility, constructing an aircraft apron where the old terminal and associated infrastructure existed and perform various associated airfield safety improvements. The project is currently 90% complete.



**PROJECT UPDATES (continued)**

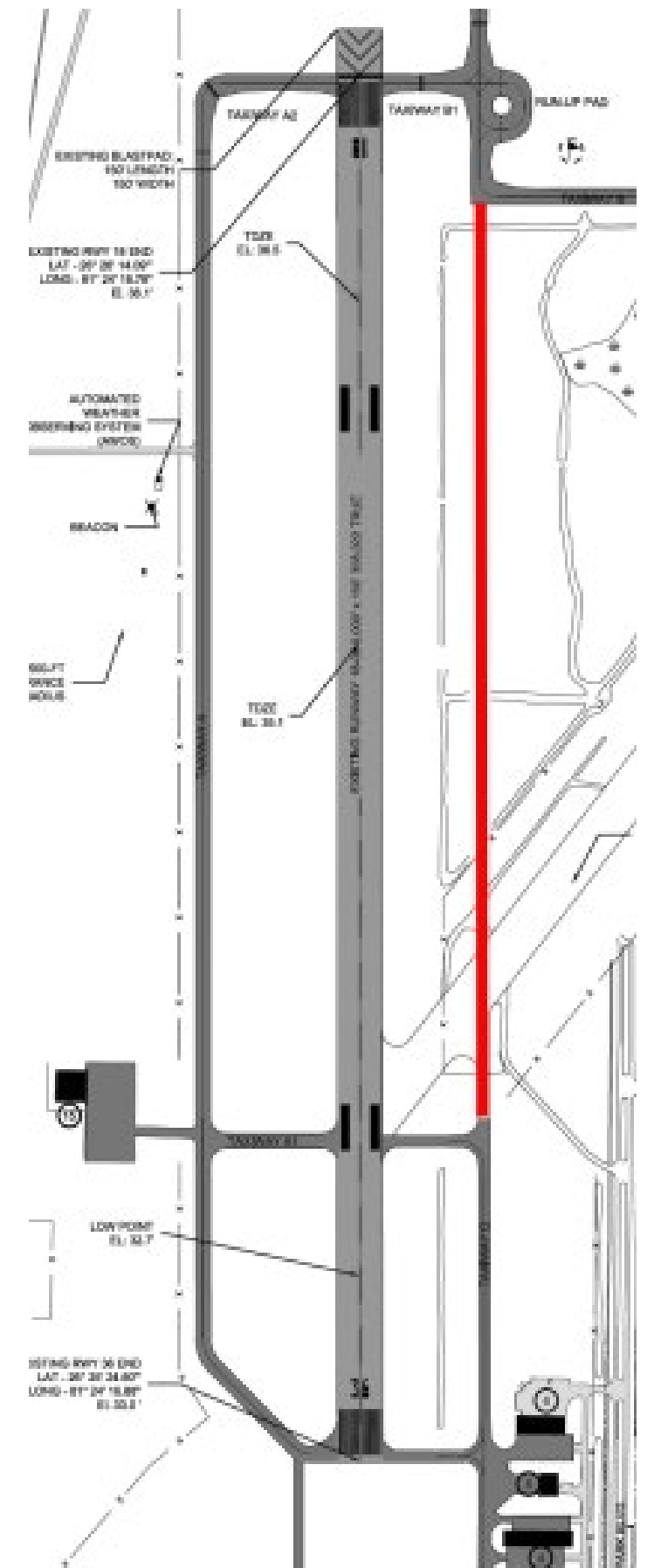
**2. Immokalee Regional Airport - Runway 18-36 Rehabilitation**

In February 2021, the Airport Authority commenced the rehabilitation of Runway 18-36 which currently utilizes original pavement that dates to the airport's activation as an Army Air Corps training base during WWII (1942). Preferred Materials is the construction contractor responsible for reconstruction along with new lighting, grading/drainage, electrical and signage to meet modern FAA safety standards. This project is 80% grant funded by FDOT.



**3. Immokalee Regional Airport - Taxiway C Extension**

Separate from the runway rehabilitation project, Ajax Paving commenced construction to extend Taxiway Charlie approximately 3,000 feet to the north to connect with Taxiway Bravo and Immokalee's primary Runway 09-27 which will eliminate the need for aircraft to cross Runway 18-36 twice to access the FBO terminal facility from the primary runway. The project's primary objective is to increase operational safety while improving airport capacity. This project is 95% grant funded by FAA/FDOT and is currently 20% complete.



## OPERATIONS ACTIVITIES



Month	Marco Island Executive Airport	Immokalee Regional Airport	Everglades Airpark
January	3,298*	2,356	838
February	3,010	1,664	715
March	3,586	2,813	902

\* Estimation resulting from terminal transition

### Everglades Airpark – Old Farts Flying Club Lunch Fly-In Event on March 25, 2021.

Located in the Stone Crab capital of the World, the Everglades Airpark just might one of the most unique general aviation destinations in Florida – maybe in United States. People fly in from all over this Country to test their piloting skills on Florida’s second shortest public use runway (2,400 feet) which also happens to be surrounded by Chokoloskee Bay on three sides. The Airport’s distinctive features are not the only enticements, seafood connoisseurs venture to this location to partake in the local cuisine that many argue is unmatched anywhere else in the state.

On March 25th, our team of Line Technicians were greeted by 53 airplanes transporting pilots and passengers that patronized five local restaurants over the Lunch Period - proving once again the contribution our Airports make to the Economy of our Collier County. Florida Department of Transportation reported a total annual economic impact of \$2.28 million for the Everglades Airpark in 2019.

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### STAY INFORMED ON CURRENT COLLIER COUNTY AIRPORT FUEL PRICES

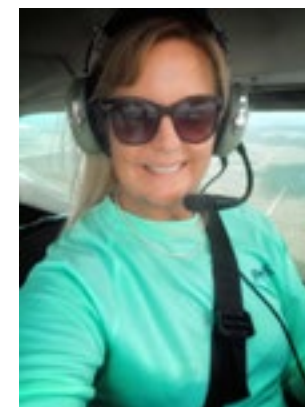
Go to [AirNav.com/fuel/local.html](https://airnav.com/fuel/local.html) and enter the following information:

- Zip Code or Airport Code
- Fuel Type

Get current information 24/7



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



### Operations Manager Marco Island Executive Airport - Kate Whitson

Aviation was something that I was born with in my blood. My Grandfather, Grandmother, Great Aunt, Great Uncle and my Dad were all general aviation pilots! I was lucky enough to get to attend every EAA Oshkosh (except ONE) since the year I was born. Basically, I've loved aviation from a very young age and knew it was something I was meant to do for life. I decided to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL and not just because I was a girl from Wisconsin desperately wanting to escape the cold winters to Florida (although not a bad place to go to school if you ask me)! I graduated with a degree in Management of Technical Operations and minored in Aircraft Accident Investigation thinking one day I would work for the NTSB as an aviation accident investigator. As we all know, life has its twists and turns and as it turns out, had alternative plans for me. My professional career commenced at Cessna Aircraft Company in Wichita, KS shortly after graduation which also led me to finally obtaining a private pilot's license in 2001.

As a kid at the EAA Airshow, I was always fascinated with aerobatics and sometimes dreamed about someday being a performer there myself. As I said earlier, life occasionally has other plans, but I did get to pursue a short stint in competition aerobatics thanks to my then husband (now dear/best friend) who happened to be a flight instructor and taught me to fly and compete in our 8KCAB Decathlon. I would sincerely encourage anyone who flies to get inverted with a qualified instructor and aircraft to broaden your horizon which may ultimately save your life should an unforeseen situation arise.

Since working for Cessna, I have spent time in the commercial real estate field back in Wisconsin and finally working for The City of Marco Island in Business Development before finding my way back to aviation in my current position as Airport Operations Manager here at the beautiful Marco Island Executive Airport. I have happily been here for 6 years and feel so blessed everyday that I get to do what I do, where I do it with the people I do it with. Being in this business at this airport, has been the highlight of my professional career thus far and I can't imagine another job that would bring me so much fulfillment and joy. No two days are the same here and I am beyond lucky to have an amazing and highly skilled staff to make my job look easy.

It has been a banner year for us despite the pandemic and I have to give so much credit to the Line and Customer Service Staff for continuing to operate this busy little airport in a safe and friendly manner throughout this particularly challenging season. We ALL work hard to make this the best little airport in the area and more than anything, the safest. I feel comfortable saying that collectively, we do this not because it's a "job," but because it's something we all love in a personal way. For me, it's in my blood, for others, it's a love they found later in life. Aviation is special and unlike any other industry and I am thankful every day to be in this role serving our customers, our County and the general aviation community.

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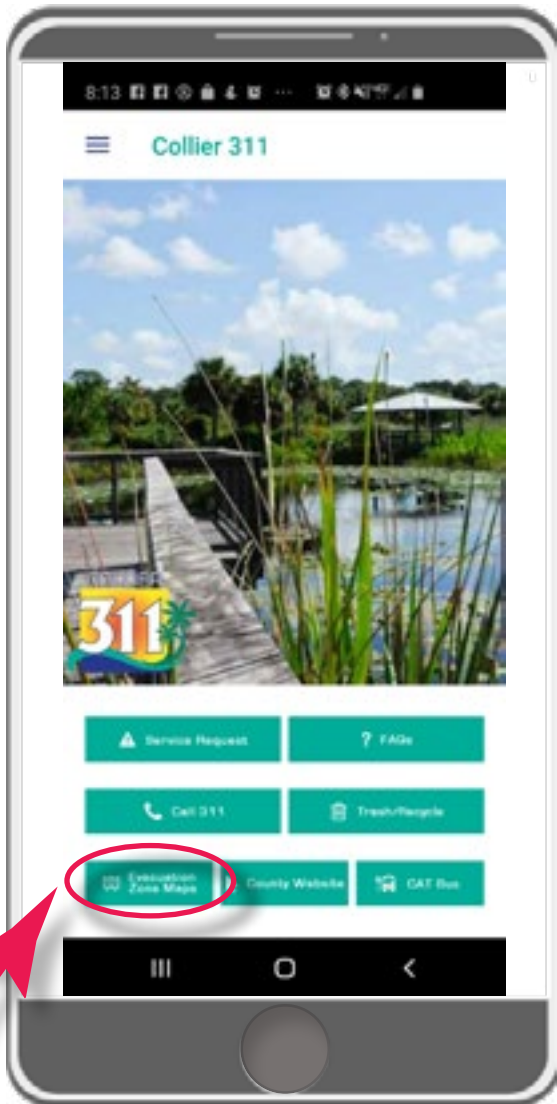


## COLLIER 311 EVACUATION ZONE MAPS

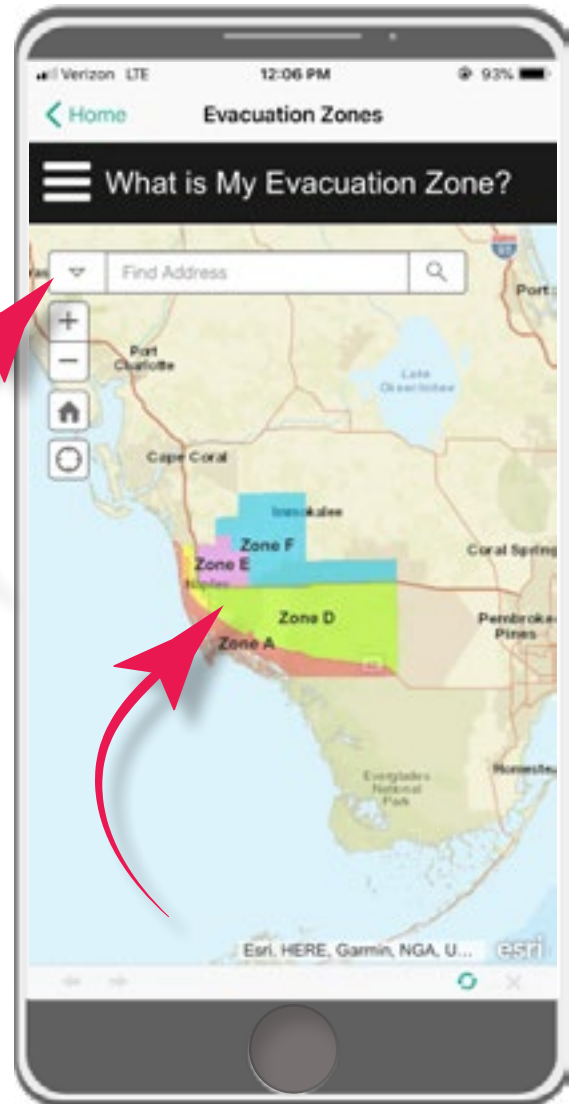
by Michelle Scavone, Operations Support Division

The Collier 311 App makes it easy to find your Evacuation Zone. Follow these easy steps:

1. DOWNLOAD the Collier 311 App to your smartphone and OPEN it
2. SELECT the “Evacuation Zone Maps” button from the home screen
3. ENTER your address or CLICK the map to find your Evacuation Zone



**SELECT** Button  
“Evacuation  
Zone Maps”



**ENTER** Address or  
**ZOOM** Map

*Have a non-emergency issue to report? Click the Service Request button on the App or dial 311 from anywhere within Collier County for immediate assistance. We're here for you!*

