

To: Airport Manager Cheryl Conner
From: The Tenants and Users of the Winter Haven Airport (TUWHA)
Date: 17 December 2008
Re: Winter Haven Airport (Gilbert Field) Safety, Services, Environmental, and Expenditure Concerns

The Tenants and Users of the Winter Haven Airport are asking that you address the following concerns and provide a response in writing as soon as possible:

#1 Safety Concern: The location of the “new terminal” at the Winter Haven Airport necessitates the fuel truck to cross the primary active runway (Runway 4) numerous times throughout the day. Pilot initiated “go-arounds” due to the fuel truck crossing Runway 4 and Runway 11 have been observed. There is a grave concern for a runway incursion by pilots and instructors operating at the airport. It is questionable whether the fuel truck drivers carry a communication radio in the truck. If so, they are not announcing when they are crossing the runway(s), nor responding to Unicom calls from pilots.

#2 Safety Concern: Vehicles driving on active runways and active taxiways without safety lighting or radio communication.

#3 Safety Concern: More diligent use of the Unicom radio to advise runway in use is requested. This type of communication may help prevent another mid-air accident such as occurred on 11/23/2008.

#4 Safety Concern: There is no updated taxi chart for the Winter Haven Airport since before the construction of Runway 11 taxiway. This situation was communicated to the airport manager on 19 May 2008 and again on 21 November 2008 and included the contact information for submitting the revised airport taxi chart.

#5 Safety Concern: The Ground Control Outlet (GCO) has been out-to-service for over a year and noted in the Airport Facility Directory to be “out-to-service indefinitely.” This is a major safety concern when the airport is below Visual Flight Rules (VFR) weather due to the lack of reception area of Tampa Approach. The GCO needs to be returned-to-service.

#6 Safety Concern: The Runway End Identifier Lights (REIL) for Runway 22 are NOTAM out-to-service. When can we expect them to be back in service?

#7 Safety Concern: The runway sign at the intersection of the runways, damaged in the runway incursion accident of 10/18/2008 (which destroyed an aircraft), needs repaired and/or replaced.

#8 Safety Concern: There is considerable trash and debris (FOD) on the taxiways and adjacent to the runways which could damage aircraft engines. There are very few trash receptacles on the airport property for use by the airport customers.

#9 Safety/Security Concern: Security cameras for the ramp and hangar areas have been requested numerous times in the recent past due to the repeated break-ins, theft, and acts of vandalism.

#10 Safety/Security Concern: There are *no* lights on the south complex (Tailwheels Flight School building) resulting in total darkness at night. The majority of aircraft movements at night are on or adjacent to the south complex.

#11 Safety/Environmental Concern: There are no "used fuel" receptacles on the south side of the airport in which to place contaminated fuel sumped from aircraft. The majority of aircraft movements take place from the south ramp.

#12 Safety/Expenditure Concern: The plethora of lights (mostly lighting the parking lot) at the "new terminal", which closes at 7 pm local time, are left on all night. It appears to be a waste of taxpayers' money to illuminate a building which is not being used. In addition, the *ramp* of the "new terminal" is not very well lighted for aircraft movements.

#13 Safety/Service Concern: The fuel truck takes an inordinate amount of time to arrive at the south ramp and t-hangars for fueling aircraft.

#14 Safety/Service/Expenditure Concern: The price of aviation fuel at Winter Haven is considerably higher than surrounding airports. This causes pilots inconvenience to purchase fuel elsewhere and does not promote fuel sales business at Winter Haven.

#15 Expenditure Concern: The "new terminal" has an expensive weather service (DTN Weather) which is not at all necessary for pilot flight planning when a computer with regular internet service is available. Why is this service continued?

#16 Expenditure Concern: The City of Winter Haven Airport budget reveals numerous "consultant" fees. The airport has an "advisory board" and an endless number of aviation professionals willing to "advise" and "consult" for free in an effort to help improve the safety and operation of the airport. Why is the expertise of these individuals not being cultivated by the airport manager?

#17 Safety/Security/Service/Expenditure Concern: When can we see a Safety Management System, per Advisory Circular 150/5200 - 37 "Introduction to Safety Management Systems for Airport Operators" implemented at our airport?