

**Hamilton County Airport Authority**  
**One Hamilton County Square**  
**Noblesville, Indiana 46060**

March 5, 2008

Hamilton County Commissioners, and  
County Council  
One Hamilton County Square  
Noblesville, Indiana 46060

Re: Airport Authority 2007 Annual Report

Dear Commissioners and Council Members:

Four and one half years ago, you created the Hamilton County Board of Aviation Commissioners and purchased the Terry Airport. It was stated at the time that this was done to protect a significant piece of transportation infrastructure, for the citizens of Hamilton County, as well as the surrounding counties.

The positive foresight of making that investment for the citizens of Hamilton County has become well documented. The economic impact of the facility as been reported to have increased to nearly \$44 million for the area served. The number of planes based at Indy Exec. has grown by 50 %, to 105 planes, with 20 jet powered aircraft. Over 50 of these planes are corporately owned, with 27 % from Boone County, 31% from Hamilton County, 37% from



**Figure 1- Terry Airport Terminal 2004**

Marion County, and 5% from other counties. A recent survey of transient flights into the facility found that, on average, these flights had a pilot, a co-pilot and three passengers with 60 percent staying for one night. There are now 41 people employed at Indianapolis Executive Airport. All of these statistics reflect the positive contribution to the economic growth, business and quality of life benefits enjoyed in the area, because of your vision to save this part of the local transportation infrastructure.

In 2006, you approved the growth from a Board of Aviation Commissioners to an Airport Authority. In 2007, the Hamilton County Airport Authority was formed and the Board was expanded to include an advisory member from Boone County. This was considered

important to include a representative during the time when actively planning for the future.

Funding for the phased start of the new Master Plan was approved by the Hamilton County Council in 2005. Data collected in 2006 was used to prepare projections, which were submitted to FAA in late 2006. In January, 2007 those projections were approved by FAA, setting the base line for technical analysis. In September funding for the next phase was appropriated, which allowed technical efforts to proceed with alternatives for the physical improvements needed. These were reviewed with FAA, State officials and the public at a special meeting in October, 2007 at Indianapolis Executive Airport. Anticipated appropriation of funding for the final phase of the Master Plan in April, 2008 will allow completion of the technical study, public meetings and drafting of the final document.

During 2007 construction of the parallel taxiway was completed, improving the safety and general operations of the airport. The new terminal, constructed by Montgomery Aviation, provided the only covered access to planes arriving and departing at a reliever airport in Indiana. Efforts to seal cracks in our runway and improved conditions for the traveling public continued, awaiting reconstruction when funds are available. Funds were approved by Council in September and work was initiated to make improvements to the instrument landing system at the airport. The instrument landing system improvements will be completed in the spring of 2008, if FAA and FCC coordination of radio frequencies can be completed.



**Figure 2- Indianapolis Executive Airport Terminal**

Efforts were continued in 2007 to have positive communication and cooperation with the airport neighbors. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Mr. Montgomery and a representative of the Authority met with Zionsville Community Schools to discuss our mutual interests, how to keep communications open and avoid misunderstandings. In November a meeting of the Township Trustee, local business leaders and the Airport Authority was held to improve communications. Also in November, representatives of the newly elected City of Westfield and the Authority met and discussed how there could be coordination of development along State Road 32 in the vicinity of Indianapolis Executive Airport with the Authority to avoid conflicts. On two occasions during the year, when nearby properties were under discussion with Boone County zoning authority, representatives attended meetings to make the airport's presence and interests known.

The income to the airport in 2007 from hanger rentals, land rent, farm ground rent and fuel fees was budgeted for \$178,917.00 came in with actual income of \$170,535.00. Included in this was \$40,000 paid to Hamilton County. Fuel sales during 2007 were

625,172 gallons compared to 609,425 gallons in 2006. Fees paid for fuel sales resulted in \$87,860.45 or 51% of the revenue for the operation of the airport.

The FAA and INDOT recognize the Indianapolis Executive Airport as a reliever airport in their system and have provided over \$3.8 million dollars in five grant awards since being acquired by Hamilton County. The airport has received a total of 13 funding grants from FAA and INDOT over the years. Eight of the earlier grants were to the airport's previous owner. The most recent grant of over \$1,900,000 funded the construction of the parallel taxiway.

The Airport Authority wishes to thank the County Commissioners and the Council for their support and vision. We look forward to your guidance for an ever brighter future for Indianapolis Executive Airport, Hamilton County and the area we serve. We would also like to recognize and thank Montgomery Aviation for their untiring effort to make Indianapolis Executive Airport the best it can be and to be a positive force in the community for economic growth. If there would be any questions please feel free to contact any of our members at any time.

Respectfully,

Donald R. Silvey, P.E.  
President