

## **Tinicum Township Signs Airport Agreements**

*Agreements between the township, Delaware County and City of Philadelphia protect Tinicum residents while allowing airport expansion to proceed.*

TINICUM TOWNSHIP, Pa. (April 23, 2015) - Tinicum Township has signed agreements with Delaware County, Interboro School District and the City of Philadelphia that will enable the Philadelphia International Airport to expand while minimizing the impact on the airport's most immediate neighbors, the people of Tinicum Township.

The agreements end years of litigation that the township, the county and the school district had pursued to ensure that its residents' interests were protected. The airport now will be able to move forward with portions of its expansion plan in Delaware County without the need to acquire 72 Tinicum Township homes and relocate approximately 300 Tinicum residents.

"Nearly one year ago, we stood here and promised that we would reach an agreement that would allow the airport to grow while still protecting the people of Tinicum Township, whose daily lives are most impacted by the airport and its operations. Today, we are here to keep that promise," said Tom Giancristoforo, President of the Tinicum Township Board of Commissioners, during the public announcement of the agreement on April 22, 2015. "This agreement achieves the ultimate goal we have been trying to reach for years – preserving Tinicum's neighborhoods and securing a stream of revenue that will benefit the township and its people for decades to come."

In May 2014, the four parties announced that an agreement in principle had been reached that would resolve the outstanding issues. The April 22, 2015 signing reflects the formal agreement between the city, which owns and operates the airport, and Tinicum, where two-thirds of the airport property is located, as well as the school district and the county.

"I'm proud to be here with leaders from around the Philadelphia region to sign this historic agreement," said Mayor Michael A. Nutter. "The multi-billion dollar Capacity Enhancement Program for PHL International Airport was initiated to improve passenger experiences, accommodate future growth and expand our role as a leader in global air travel. Our regional competitiveness, the economy of the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the growth of businesses and jobs in our great city are directly tied to the success of PHL International."

Under the terms of the agreements, the airport will resume payments to its Delaware County neighbors that ceased after a previous agreement expired in 2007. Highlights of the agreements include:

- Annual payments of \$1.86 million to be divided among the taxing authorities of Delaware County, Tincum Township, and Interboro School District, which had been suspended since 2007.
- The agreement resolves several years of dispute over the taxes on the U.S. Post Office building through a one-time payment of \$500,000 to the Interboro School District.
- A payment to Tincum, the community most impacted by the expansion, of \$1 million each year for the 20-year term, or until the CEP is completed.
- The city and Tincum agree to a 50-year lease/purchase of Hog Island Road and the currently leased Runway Safety Area. The city initially will purchase 8.6 acres of Hog Island Road identified for construction of a new runway for a total of \$5 million. The remaining portion not initially purchased will be leased to the city for about \$390,000 each year.
- Provisions are included in the agreement that will protect the township's, county's and school district's real estate taxes, earned income taxes, and parking lot taxes and provide incentives to the city to ensure that any potentially affected businesses remain within the township.
- The city will provide new tide gates to address existing stormwater management issues to protect the township from any additional stormwater runoff.
- The city has agreed to ensure that construction of the new "river runway" will not reduce the current depth and integrity of the "inner channel" at its present level.

"We are pleased that this litigation has finally been settled. It accomplishes our top priorities - saving our residential neighborhoods in Tincum; ensuring that the county, school district and township tax bases are preserved; and allowing the much-needed improvements to our region's airport to get underway," said John P. McBlain, Delaware County councilman and former county solicitor. "The Capacity Enhancement Program now should provide thousands of construction jobs for working men and women in Delaware County for years to come. The improvements to the airport should mean a world-class facility that will enhance business in Delaware County and a better travel experience for air travelers."

"This signing signifies our partnership and our commitment to good relations with our neighbors," said Airport CEO Mark Gale. "I want to thank Mayor Nutter for his vision and support as we worked to achieve an agreement that sets the stage to advance the CEP in a responsible manner. I also want to thank the Tincum Township Board of Commissioners and Delaware County Council for their collaboration during the negotiations and the advancement of the CEP. I would also like to thank Congressman Pat Meehan and Congressman Bob Brady for their support of this important milestone."

“The agreement paves the way for good-paying jobs for middle-class families and fewer delays at the gate for travelers,” said Meehan. “It also helps the Delaware County communities surrounding the airport and protects the tax base so vital to our local school districts. The Capacity Enhancement Program will help the airport meet the air travel needs of our region for years to come. I’m pleased all parties were able to reach an equitable agreement.”

The agreement was signed by Giancristoforo, Interboro School Board President Kathy Hauger, Mayor Nutter and Delaware County Council Chairman Mario Civera, Jr.

In 2002, the U.S. Department of Transportation identified the improvements to PHL as one of 13 high-priority projects nationwide. Years of discussion have now yielded a program that will benefit both the airport and its neighbors and the traveling public. The final agreements require FAA approval.

More than 30 million travelers pass through PHL each year. The CEP will enable the airport to grow to meet future demand and help remedy some of the issues facing the airport today. The multi-billion dollar program will be funded through airport revenue bonds, passenger facility charges, federal Airport Improvement Program grants, and other airport revenues. No local tax dollars will be used to fund the improvements. The result will be an airport that is more modern and efficient and is better equipped to facilitate travel and commerce for years to come.

The CEP is a comprehensive program to modernize PHL over the next 12 to 15 years. It is an investment in airfield, terminal and cargo projects and will improve operational efficiencies, enhance customer experiences and increase the region’s global connectivity at one of the nation’s busiest airports. Current approved CEP projects include:

- Design and construction of a 1,500-foot extension of runway 27L to 12,000 feet that will enable larger aircraft to travel longer international routes.
- Construction of airfield taxiway improvements that will enable greater flexibility and efficiency for departures and arrivals.
- Plan and design of a new Automated People Mover (APM) system, which can move travelers between terminals quickly and conveniently.
- Plan to design and construct a new, consolidated rental car facility, so customers can go to a single location and shuttle traffic will be reduced on airport roadways.
- Plan to re-design Terminal B/C to provide new ticketing, baggage screening, and security screening.

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