



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CONFERENCE MEETING

#23-0965

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager

DATE: October 3, 2023

TITLE: Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport Lead Emissions Analysis - **(Commission District 1)**

On October 17, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed determination that lead emissions from aircraft using Aviation Gas (AVGAS-100 Low Lead) cause or contribute to lead air pollution, which may endanger public health and welfare. Most aircraft that use AVGAS are piston-engine, which are typically small aircraft used for flight training and recreational flying.

The EPA finding is a first step towards addressing lead emissions emitted from piston-engine aircraft and will include further studies to determine if lead emissions from aircraft engines cause or contribute to lead air pollution.

Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) has engaged the services of Harris Miller Miller and Hanson (HMMH), which is the Airport's environmental and noise consulting firm. HMMH also performs services that include air quality analysis, airport and airspace planning, and sustainable energy solutions. The scope of work being performed by HMMH will include lead emissions analysis of general aviation aircraft operating at FXE that use AVGAS. The analysis will describe how the EPA developed their information and how the levels reported at airports in South Florida compare to EPA standards and statewide reported levels (Exhibit 1). The consultant has prepared a presentation on their findings and will provide the Commission with an update (Exhibit 2).

When a final determination is made on piston-engine aircraft lead emissions contribution to lead air pollution, the EPA will establish regulatory standards. This will also trigger the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to prescribe standards for the implementation of unleaded fuel for general aviation aircraft. The switch to unleaded aircraft fuel is FXE's goal and will entail transitioning safely from the use of lead fuels in piston engine aircraft. Although the FAA does not have direct regulatory responsibility for aviation fuels, they are working with critical government and industry partners to develop a multi-layered strategy to eliminate lead fuel for piston-engine aircraft by the end of 2030.

FXE and its aviation tenants are committed to taking steps to reduce its environmental impact, including replacing golf carts and aircraft tugs with zero-emissions electric equipment and hybrid vehicles. We will continue to work with a consultant to perform Airport soil testing to determine the levels of lead contamination emitted by piston-engine aircraft.

HMMH will be making a presentation and will be available for questions.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Business Development Focus Area
- Goal 5: Build an attractive global and local economic community marketplace.
- Objective: Provide the best-in-class regional general aviation airport amenities and services
- Objective: Create a responsive and proactive business climate to attract emerging industries

This item advances the *Fast-Forward Fort Lauderdale Vision Plan 2035: We are Prosperous*.

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Business Development Focus Area
- The Economic Development Element
- Goal 3: Recognize and include in economic development planning the role of Port Everglades and the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and Fort Lauderdale Executive Airports.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – FXE Lead Analysis Memo

Exhibit 2 – Lead Analysis Presentation

Prepared by: Rufus A. James, Airport Director

Charter Officer: Greg Chavarria, City Manager