



City of New Bedford
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Date: May 4, 2015
For Immediate Release

City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Study Finds Big Jump In Economic Impact and Job-Growth at New Bedford Airport

Economic Impact Up 23%, and 60 New Jobs in Past Four Years

“Evening at the Airport” Event on Wednesday, May 6 Will Showcase Study’s Findings

New Bedford, Massachusetts—According to the most recent update of an economic impact study prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Aeronautics Division, the New Bedford Regional Airport is posting sizable gains.

The findings of the MassDOT study and other developments at the New Bedford Regional Airport will be showcased by state and local aviation officials at “An Evening at the Airport,” a free public event to be held in the Airport Terminal on Wednesday, May 6th from 5:30-7:30pm.

The MassDOT study tracks measures of economic success at all 39 public-use airports in Massachusetts. The study found that New Bedford Regional Airport generates \$32.4 million in local economic activity. This figure is up from \$26.3 million in 2011, **a 23% increase in four years**. The impact was measured using a standard economic modeling process approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), with the multipliers used for calculations specific to Massachusetts.

The study also found that New Bedford Regional Airport supports 297 public and private jobs with an annual payroll of \$10.6 million. In 2011 the corresponding figures were 234 jobs, with an annual payroll of \$8.3 million, **an increase of more than 60 new jobs in four years**.

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell welcomed the news, “We have stayed focused on job-creation in the places where New Bedford has strong competitive advantages, especially the waterfront and airport. Today’s news is confirmation that our strategy is paying dividends. Our port just had a record year for freighter activity and now our Airport is reporting solid results too. I could not be more pleased with the efforts of the talented leadership team we have put in place at the Airport.”

“The numbers show that the New Bedford Regional Airport is an economic engine and a capable job-creator. The new job-growth since 2011 has taken a number of forms, from new aviation-related positions to new construction jobs that are part of the ongoing modernization of our facilities,” said Airport Manager Erick D’Leon.

The study also confirms the value of recent federal and state investments in New Bedford Regional Airport, among them a \$30 million, 5-year program of projects which was completed last fall with the opening of the new Runway 5/23.

Airport officials expect further growth as a new phase of capital improvement projects kicks off later this year. The next major project will be the reconstruction of the taxiway serving the primary runway, a \$4 million project that will be 95% funded by the FAA and MassDOT. \$25 million in additional state investments in the form of new aprons and a new terminal are planned in years ahead.

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