

2009 RELIEVER AIRPORT OF THE YEAR

Our reliever airport of the year is located in one of Texas' most historic cities, and plays a major role as a commercial and recreational air center. The airport is the second oldest continuously operating general aviation airport in the United States, and was training pilots and manufacturing aircraft well before WWI.

The airport was home to the first commercial scheduled air service for the city and continued to grow with a terminal and control tower constructed with Works Progress Administration funds. During WW II the airport trained pilots and was an official auxiliary to a major airfield just a few miles to the west. After the war construction of a new commercial service airport was completed north of the City, and our reliever airport of the year assumed its current role serving the needs of general aviation.

Because of its extensive history our airport has faced many challenges in accommodating the needs of both the local economy and modern aviation. The City invested close to 5 million dollars in planning for and construction of a new terminal and administrative office complex at the airport. The new complex surrounds the original historic terminal in a jewel like setting that both provides opportunity for development and showcases the history of the airport.

The airport currently has two FBOs – both of which operate flight schools as well as provide a host of other services. The airport is a popular destination for student pilots and is known for having friendly and patient air traffic controllers.

The airport is also home to a branch of the Texas Air Museum, and the city police department helicopter unit. Our airport offers a wide range of services to both the flying and local population with an onsite café recently expanded with the new terminal. In the near future, a local college Aviation Degree program will be available at the airport.

Meeting the needs of modern aviation has not been easy at one of the oldest general aviation airfields in the country with a runway surrounded not only by urban development, but also by many historic and public use areas. To accomplish a runway extension, the city has had to coordinate with not only the standard agencies, but local regulatory agencies unique to its history. The city has completed a land planning and compatibility plan for the airport and surrounding areas, executed memorandums of understanding, and is working on joint history brochures. Together with TxDOT, the city is well under way to complete the runway extension and improvement project to bring the airport to current standards.

An economic impact study funded by TxDOT determined that the airport and its visitors contributed more than \$25 million to the local economy, and provided over 400 full

time jobs. The City recognizes the positive economic impact of the airport, and continues to invest in business development related to the airport. The history of our reliever airport of the year has spanned over 90 years and its sponsor city has respected that history, enhancing the airport to meet modern needs.

The Texas Department of Transportation takes great pride in awarding San Antonio Stinson Municipal Airport the distinction of Texas Reliever Airport of the Year.

Senator Carlos Uresti sent a resolution for us to present.

Representative Joe Farias office has a resolution. Rep. Farias is here to present it.