

VASI PRESENTATION
MAY 24, 2022

Good morning, Mayor Feinsod, Council, Mr. Lavelle, and staff, it's good to be here! Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm Dave Wimberly, President of Venice Aviation Society, VASI. VASI represents approximately 250 members in the local Venice area, pilots, aircraft owners, Venice airport hangar tenants, and aviation enthusiasts in general. VASI's mission is a safe and modern airport and for that we thank you, the FAA, and the people of the United States for investing some 30 million dollars in our airport over the last 17 years or so.

Our pilots fly at the Venice airport on a regular basis, and we feel an obligation to advise you, our landlord, the current situation in the air at the airport. We come to you because,,The City of Venice owns the airport and you the Council function as the owner operator of the airport or in FAA terms the Sponsor of the airport.

As we all know the city and local area has been “discovered”. Venice is no longer a quiet “City on the Gulf”, the same goes for the Venice airport. Nestled between Sarasota, to the North, and Ft. Myers, South with Punta Gorda to the East, what once was a nice small town airport has also been discovered.

The amount of traffic as well as the combination or mix of traffic has resulted in a complicated situation in the traffic pattern at Venice airport. Later, my compatriot will provide more details about this traffic, and it's causes and effects, suffice it to say we are concerned and feel the obligation to bring it to your attention.

We know that the council is busy with a full agenda and the airport located at the South end of “The Island”, is sometimes out of sight and out of mind. On the ground we are blessed with a safe and modern airport and for that we thank the City Council. However, today we are talking about what goes on in the air, in the airport traffic pattern.

Therefore we have this obligation , to speak to you today to recommend an Air Traffic Control Tower for the Venice airport. The traffic and more importantly the complicated mix of traffic drives our recommendation. Our pilots did not make this decision lightly, pilots love their freedom to fly, and adding a layer of control is a big step for them. Clearly, our civic obligation to you the Airport Sponsors overrode any personal motives.

The Venice Aviation Society recommends the City work with the FAA with the intention of establishing an Air Traffic Control Tower for the Venice Municipal Airport. For more details, I now turn the presentation over to Paul Hollowell.