Asheville
REGIONAL AIRPORT



'22 HORIZONS

WHERE TODAY MEETS TOMORROW

A YEAR IN REVIEW



It is one of my great privileges each year to spend time reflecting, revisiting the rewards of the hard work of the AVL team. Accomplishments were plentiful in 2022, a year that culminated in record numbers of passengers, significant progress toward major infrastructure enhancements, strengthening of important partnerships ... all paving the way for new horizons at our region's airport.

Much of our work involved the routine, day-to-day operations that our customers and business partners rely upon ... the kind of work that is often unseen by the public, but runs like clockwork behind the scenes, keeping the airfield and terminal safe, efficient and operational. Important work, to be sure.

The airport team also participated in our community in meaningful ways, with passenger-focused services, as well as community philanthropy. The team worked hard to expand professional knowledge and expertise, and to share talents through volunteerism. Positive corporate citizenship is important, and I am proud of the AVL team.

Equally important, we've continued to keep our vision focused on the future horizon ... on what must come in order to manage the significant growth happening at the airport and in our region. And what's coming is very exciting! Much progress was made toward these new horizons in 2022, so read on to learn more.

The theme of this "Year in Review" is "Horizons." This word helps me visualize the posture of our organization at this moment in history. We are looking squarely ahead – both at the nearby horizon, within quick reach, and also at the farther away place where today meets tomorrow with a promise of a new day. The course has been charted, and we've landed at numerous important stops along the way. 2022 was a significant year, and I hope you enjoy the recap.

Thank you for including AVL in your journeys.
We invite you to be a part of ours, as well.

Blue Skies,

Lew Bleiweis, A.A.E.
President & CEO

growth ON THE HORIZON

FIVE-YEAR ANNUAL PASSENGER TREND

YEAR	ANNUAL PASSENGERS	% CHANGE YR/YR
2018	1,134,568	+19%
2019	1,616,762	+43%
2020	704,972	-56% *PANDEMIC
2021	1,428,266	103%
2022	1,838,793	+29%

PASSENGER GROWTH

In 2022 AVL not only fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels but soared above and beyond to set new records. 2022 was by far the busiest year on record in AVL's history, with 1,838,793 passengers flying to or from the airport, a 29% increase over 2021.

THIRD BUSIEST AIRPORT IN THE STATE

Not only did AVL have a record-breaking year, but for the first time was named the third busiest airport in the state. The FAA released its annual list of all commercial airports in the country, ranked by enplanements, ranking AVL behind Charlotte Douglas International Airport and Raleigh Durham International Airport. AVL ranked 104 on the list of 478 commercial service airports in the U.S.

Impacting western North Carolina and beyond





ECONOMIC GROWTH

The most recent North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Aviation economic impact study shows that AVL contributes **$2.26 billion** in annual economic impact to the region. The airport supports 10,655 jobs, contributes $118 million in tax revenue to the region, and more than $700 million in personal income.



EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

A reflection of continued growth, the AVL team expanded in 2022. AVL budgeted for seven additional full-time employees for 2022/2023.



more flights ON THE HORIZON

AMERICAN AIRLINES

AMERICAN AIRLINES ADDED NEW ROUTES TO MIAMI, FL AND AUSTIN, TX

June 2022 was a huge month for air travel at AVL, with American Airlines adding not one, but two nonstop destinations. American Airlines began nonstop service to Miami (MIA) and Austin (AUS) the first week of June. American Airlines also extended their popular seasonal Philadelphia (PHL) route to the end of November.

DELTA

DELTA GREW THEIR SERVICE AT AVL

Delta added a sixth daily flight to Atlanta (ATL) and began using larger aircraft to serve the nonstop Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP) route in November and December 2022 with plans to expand to three times weekly in the spring of 2023. Additionally, Delta began serving New York (LGA) up to three times daily.

JETBLUE

AVL BEGAN A BLUE-TIFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH JETBLUE

On a beautiful June day, AVL celebrated a huge milestone with JetBlue officially joining the airport as the sixth airline. There was a celebration with cake, music, and gifts as the inaugural flight arrived from Boston. JetBlue offers summer seasonal service from AVL to Logan International Airport (BOS) in Boston.



expansion ON THE HORIZON

TERMINAL EXPANSION PROJECT

In 2022, preliminary work began on the estimated 4-year terminal expansion project. With construction happening in multiple phases, the project will more than double the size of the current terminal.

2022 was also the year the airport moved closer to building a new FAA air traffic control tower, with the completion of the new tower's design. A new tower must be built to make way for the terminal expansion.

PHASES

The groundwork was laid for the terminal expansion project to get underway next year. Some key projects were completed, including:

- **Hensel Phelps staging area** – A complex was constructed to house modular offices, space for equipment and deliveries for Hensel Phelps, the construction contractor.
- **Electrical vault** – A new electrical vault, to serve the entire airport's significant lighting and electrical needs, was constructed.
- **Central energy plant** – Work began on a central energy plant that will service the new terminal.

COMING NEXT:

The AVL Forward terminal project is scheduled to launch in 2023, pending successful financing. The airport will provide key information and updates as the terminal expansion gets underway.

FAA GRANTS AND BONDS

In order to make the dream of expansion a reality, AVL needed to secure funding. For the first time in its history, AVL entered the bond market to secure additional funding for the expansion project. Additionally, AVL received $10 million in federal grant funds as part of the Airport Improvement Program, and a $15 million grant from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – Airport Terminal Program for the new air traffic control tower project.

PARKING

With more traffic than ever at the airport, AVL needed to expand parking to meet the demand. Several new lots were added in 2022, with plans for more in the coming year.

- **Cell Phone Lot and expanded shuttle lot** — In August, AVL opened a new Cell Phone Lot across the street from the terminal. The lot gives those picking up passengers a complimentary place to park and wait. Also, the Shuttle Lot was expanded, adding approximately 70 additional spaces serviced by a shuttle.
- **North remote lot** — A temporary overflow lot was completed in November, just in time for the busy holiday season. The lot is located across the street from the viewing area.
- **Another remote lot (south) is coming** — Design continues to move forward for additional parking spaces on the property south of the gas station on Highway 280.



LAND DEVELOPMENT

This year brought some exciting developments for airport property. The Authority entered into a long-term lease centered around the airport-owned golf course to protect the land uses around the airport as well as to diversify the non-aeronautical revenues. The Authority-owned golf course has approximately 30 acres of land that is available for development.

The lease is with DreamCatcher Hotels, who will develop a 4 Diamond upscale hotel and 12,000 sq.ft. conference space. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2023. This hotel will be an anchor for future development.





SOUTH GENERAL AVIATION APRON REHABILITATION

More parking for aircraft was constructed in 2022. The project was completed in December, allowing additional room for parking of commercial and military aircraft.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Master Plan process continued in 2022 and will result in a strategic document in 2023 to help guide future growth at the airport. Progress and opportunities for community input are available at flyavl.com/masterplan.

brightening OUR HORIZONS

RUNWAY 5K



On a chilly October morning, surrounded by hundreds of spectators, 1,000 runners took off down Taxiway Bravo, parallel to the active runway. As planes took off and landed nearby, the runners propelled themselves towards the finish line as members of the community cheered them on.

2022 Runway 5K — a full team effort — raised $20,000 for two local aviation scholarship funds: the A-B Tech Aviation Fund and the Western North Carolina Pilots Association Educational Foundation in partnership with sponsors Hensel Phelps, Hunter Subaru, AVCON, Gresham Smith, Star 104.3, Elevation Lofts Hotel, Parish & Partners, Parsons, S&ME, and Kelsan Inc.



AVL TEAM GENEROSITY

The AVL Team works hard to keep the airport running smoothly and safely, and they also work hard to serve the local community. AVL held two blood drives supporting The Blood Connection, who provides lifesaving blood to the local community. The team also gave more than $7,000 to various charities through the employee giving program called AVL Gives. The crew also participated in fundraisers throughout the year including a toy drive for Elaida in partnership with Hensel Phelps, sponsoring eight children at Christmas through Crossnore Communities for Children, and raising money for local aviation education with the annual Runway 5K.



AVL PASSENGER PROGRAMS

PAWS FOR PASSENGERS

The beloved program grew in 2022, with seven new teams joining, bringing the count to 21 volunteer teams. The calming canines brought joy and comfort to passengers and employees in the terminal. They also tapped into their spooky side to hand out candy in the terminal on Halloween, all while sporting adorable costumes.

AVL WELCOME CREW

The new program continued in 2022, opening opportunity for people on the autism spectrum to volunteer time at the airport, welcoming passengers and offering directions to baggage claim. There is hope that the program will grow in the coming year. This program was born out of one young man's love of aviation and a family's inspiration and support, and has become a staple at AVL.

AVL AMBASSADORS

Our amazing team of volunteers continued to provide invaluable assistance to travelers and AVL crewmembers by providing valuable customer service at the airport. The ambassador team continues to grow, with 15 ambassadors total in 2022. (Some of our ambassadors have been at the airport as long as 13 years!)

MUSIC AND ART IN THE AIRPORT

WNC is a community of creativity and AVL is proud to support local musicians and artists. Two art exhibits, *Journey* and *Revive*, allowed local artists to showcase their work and for passengers to enjoy the beauty of our local art. The Music in the Airport program grew with numerous local musicians who provided music for those travelling through AVL throughout the year. The Sounds of the Holidays program also made its return this year, in which local school choirs performed holiday music in the terminal in December.



BLUE RIDGE HONOR FLIGHT

AVL was honored to once again participate in the local Blue Ridge Honor Flight program. The airport partnered on two flights, both filled with groups of deserving WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veterans who traveled to the Capitol to see their respective memorials. The community filled the terminal with cheering and bright signs to give the veterans a resounding welcome home.

LACTATION SUITE

AVL unveiled a new passenger amenity— a lactation suite. The newly added Mamava lactation pod is equipped with comfortable seating, an electrical outlet, and hand sanitizing units. The complimentary private, lockable suite is ADA accessible, the perfect place for pumping or nursing while traveling through AVL.

Strength through
teamwork & leadership



Beauford Rice, ACE
Maintenance Technician IV

ACE - Airfield Lighting Maintenance
American Association Of Airport Executives – Airport Certified Employee (ACE) Designation



Wendi Sparks, ACE
OPERATIONS SPECIALIST II

ACE - Trusted Agent
American Association Of Airport Executives – Airport Certified Employee (ACE) Designation

broadening OUR HORIZONS



John Coon, A.A.E.
VICE PRESIDENT - OPERATIONS + MAINTENANCE

SECRETARY
North Carolina Airports Association Executive Board



Tina Kinsey, A.A.E.
VICE PRESIDENT - MARKETING PR + AIR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

VICE CHAIR
Air Service Committee, American Association of Airport Executives

MEMBER
Marketing and Air Service Working Groups, Airports Council International - North America



Samuel Sales, A.M.F.
PUBLIC SAFETY CHIEF

MEMBER
Blue Ridge Honor Flight Board



Angela Wagner, MSHR, SHRM-SCP
VICE PRESIDENT - ADMINISTRATION + HUMAN RESOURCES

MEMBER
Western Carolina University Masters of Human Resources Advisory Board



Alexandra Ingle
BRAND + EXPERIENCE DESIGNER

MEMBER
Marketing, Communications and Customer Experience Steering Group

CO-CHAIR
Marketing Working Group - Airports Council International - North America



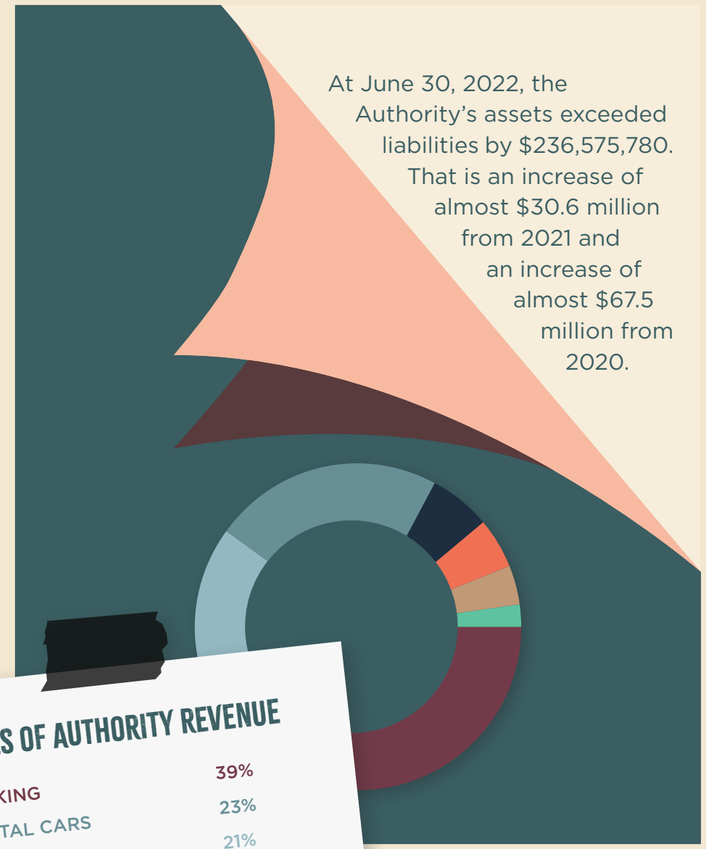
David King
GUEST SERVICES + ADVERTISING MANAGER

VICE CHAIR
Ambassador Group - Henderson County Chamber of Commerce

MEMBER
Customer Experience Working Group - Airports Council International - North America

financial HORIZON

At June 30, 2022, the Authority's assets exceeded liabilities by $236,575,780. That is an increase of almost $30.6 million from 2021 and an increase of almost $67.5 million from 2020.



SOURCES OF AUTHORITY REVENUE

PARKING	39%
RENTAL CARS	23%
AIRLINES	21%
FBO/GENERAL AVIATION	6%
CONCESSIONAIRES	5%
OTHER	4%
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	2%

THE GREATER ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
BOARD MEMBERS



Brad Galbraith
CHAIR
Appointed By: City of Asheville



George Erwin, Jr.
VICE CHAIR
Appointed By: Henderson County



Britt Lovin
MEMBER
Appointed By: GARAA Board



Nathan Kennedy
MEMBER
Appointed By: Henderson County



Carl H. Ricker, Jr.
MEMBER
Appointed By: Buncombe County



Susan Russo Klein
MEMBER
Appointed By: City of Asheville



Robby Russell
MEMBER
Appointed By: Buncombe County

flyavl.com

Greater Asheville Regional Airport Authority
61 Terminal Drive, Suite 1 | Fletcher, NC | 28732
828.684.2226