



For immediate release  
July 25, 2017

## **John Glenn International, Rickenbacker experience success, strong growth in first half of 2017**

COLUMBUS – Supported by a thriving regional economy, new air service announcements and airport developments, passenger and cargo volumes at John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH) and Rickenbacker International Airport (LCK) increased significantly year-to-date over 2016.

“Passenger and air freight carriers are capitalizing on the dynamic opportunities that continue to arise in the Columbus Region, enabling our airports to offer additional travel options for passengers and strategic opportunities for businesses,” said Elaine Roberts, President & CEO of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, which also oversees Bolton Field airport.

Passenger traffic rose 4.3 percent at John Glenn International where nearly 3.7 million people traveled through the terminal from January through June on Air Canada, American, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, United and Vacation Express. Passenger traffic at Rickenbacker, which includes Allegiant and passenger charter operations, is trending up 34 percent over the same period last year.

Cargo imports and exports at Rickenbacker rose 21 percent in the first half of 2017, bolstered by increased service from Etihad and Trinity Logistics, the 2016 expansion of Emirates, and the June 2016 opening of Air Cargo Terminal 5 in collaboration with public and private partners.

“Coupled with the Columbus Region’s strong economy and our strategic business plan, we have an extremely stable environment of growth and development to offer current and future air service partners,” said Roberts.

**-More-**

Among successful developments at the airports in the first half of 2017, Roberts referenced the following highlights:

#### **John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH)**

- Named the most improved airport in North America by Airports Council International and received an EXPY award from Experience Columbus for the airport's contributions to the local hospitality industry.
- Frontier Airlines announced nonstop service to Tampa and Austin, a new nonstop destination from Columbus.
- Completed \$6 million of upgrades to airport entrances to improve the customer experience and enhance safety.
- Partnered with HMSHost to open American Craft Tavern in Concourse C.
- Opened private nursing rooms in three concourses and on baggage claim.
- Currently expanding the Concourse C security checkpoint from three to four lanes to expedite screening for a growing number of passengers.

#### **Rickenbacker International Airport (LCK)**

- Etihad Cargo, in partnership with Trinity Logistics USA, added a second weekly frequency.
- LCK announced it will strengthen its animal export business by creating a USDA-certified Export Inspection Facility that will include 12 rest stalls and USDA offices.
- Allegiant added seasonal passenger service to Destin/Fort Walton Beach, bringing the total number of destinations served from Columbus to nine.

#### **Bolton Field Airport (TZR)**

- Welcomed the arrival of new fixed base operator ColumbusJet, providing a full range of services to customers using this general aviation airport.

#### **About the Columbus Regional Airport Authority**

With its vision to connect Ohio with the world, the Columbus Regional Airport Authority oversees the operation of passenger-focused John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH), cargo-focused Rickenbacker International Airport (LCK), and general aviation airport Bolton Field (TZR).

An independent economic impact study found that the three airports and select businesses with direct ties to the airports account for more than 54,000 jobs, \$1.8 billion in annual payroll and \$6.6 billion in total annual economic output.

Learn more at [ColumbusAirports.com](http://ColumbusAirports.com).

– END –