2019-2020 Florida Job Growth Grant Fund
Public Infrastructure Grant Proposal

Proposal Instructions: The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Proposal (this document) must be completed by the governmental entity applying for the grant and signed by either the chief elected official, the administrator for the governmental entity or their designee. Please read the proposal carefully as some questions may require a separate narrative to be completed. If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.

Governmental Entity Information

Name of Governmental Entity: City of Melbourne Airport Authority

Government Federal Employer Identification Number: [Redacted]

Primary Contact Name: Rob Himler, CM
Title: Airport Communications Coordinator
Mailing Address: 1 Air Terminal Parkway
Suite 220
Phone Number: 321-723-6227 Ext. 145
Email: rhimler@mlbair.com

Secondary Contact Name: Bill Johnson, AAE
Title: Senior Advisor
Phone Number: 321-723-6227 Ext. 145

Public Infrastructure Grant Eligibility

Pursuant to section 288.101, F.S., the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund was created to promote economic opportunity by improving public infrastructure and enhancing workforce training. Eligible entities that wish to access this grant fund must submit public infrastructure proposals that:

• Promote economic recovery in specific regions of the state, economic diversification or economic enhancement in a targeted industry. ([View Florida's Targeted Industries here.](#))
• Are not for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity.
• Are for infrastructure that is owned by the public and is for public use or predominately benefits the Public.
1. Program Requirements:
(If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.)

Each proposal must include the following information describing how the project satisfies eligibility requirements listed on page 1.

A. Provide a detailed description of the public infrastructure improvements.
   See attached narrative.

B. Provide location of public infrastructure, including physical address and county of project.
   Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB), Melbourne, Florida

C. Is this infrastructure currently owned by the public?  
   ☐ Yes  ☐ No

   If no, is there a current option to purchase or right of way provided to the County?
   N/A

D. Provide current property owner.
   City of Melbourne Airport Authority

E. Is this infrastructure for public use or does it predominately benefit the public?  
   ☐ Yes  ☐ No

F. Will the public infrastructure improvements be for the exclusive benefit of any single company, corporation or business entity?  
   ☑ Yes  ☐ No
G. Provide a detailed description of, and quantitative evidence demonstrating, how the proposed public infrastructure project will promote:

- Economic recovery in specific regions of the state;
- Economic diversification; or
- Economic enhancement of a Targeted Industry (View Florida's Targeted Industries here.)

  - Describe how the project will promote specific job growth. Include the number of jobs that will be retained or created, and in which industry(ies) the new net jobs will be created using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes. Where applicable, you may list specific businesses that will retain or create jobs or make capital investment.

  - Provide a detailed explanation of how the public infrastructure improvements will connect to a broader economic development vision for the community and benefit additional current or future businesses.

See attached narrative.

2. Additional Information:
(If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.)

A. Provide the proposed commencement date and number of days required to complete construction of the public infrastructure project.

From acceptance of the project, complete engineered drawings will take 10 weeks. Finalized drawings will be publicly bid and awarded at the next scheduled monthly board meeting, totaling approximately 6-8 weeks. After being awarded, a notice to proceed will be issued. Construction is estimated to be 42 weeks with 6 weeks for close-out.

B. What permits are necessary for the public infrastructure project?

The permits needed for the project include: environmental (FWC, FDEP), water management (SJWMD), building (City of Melbourne), roads and highways (FDOT), and a master plan compliance review (FAA).
C. Detail whether required permits have been secured, and if not, detail the timeline for securing these permits. Additionally, if any required permits are local permits, will these permits be prioritized?

Permits have not been secured at this time. Most permits will require signed and sealed engineered documents before permit review. Permitting can take up to 12 weeks to secure.

D. What is the future land use and zoning designation on the proposed site of the infrastructure improvements, and will the improvements conform to those uses?

The site's zoning designation is M-1 Light Industrial. This conform to the planned uses of the property.

E. Will an amendment to the local comprehensive plan or a development order be required on the site of the proposed project or on adjacent property to accommodate the infrastructure and potential current or future job creation opportunities? If yes, please detail the timeline.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

F. Is the project ready to commence upon grant fund approval and contract execution? If no, please explain.

☐ Yes  ☐ No

An engineering firm has been selected through the airport's continuing services agreement, and will be ready to start upon grant fund approval.

G. Does this project have a local match amount?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

If yes, please describe the entity providing the match and the amount.

These public infrastructure improvements are part of a much larger project. The airport is working to find additional funding sources. See attached narrative.

H. Provide any additional information or attachments to be considered for this proposal. Maps and other supporting documents are encouraged.

See attached narrative.
3. Program Budget
(If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.)

Estimated Costs and Sources of Funding: Include all applicable public infrastructure costs and other funding sources available to support the proposal.

1.) Total Amount Requested $3,930,000.00
Florida Job Growth Grant Fund

A. Other Public Infrastructure Project Funding Sources:
   City/County $0.00
   Private Sources $0.00
   Other (grants, etc.) $0.00
   Please Specify: __________
   Total Other Funding $0.00

B. Public Infrastructure Project Costs:
   Construction $3,078,309.37
   Reconstruction $0.00
   Design & Engineering $843,822.71
   Land Acquisition $0.00
   Land Improvement $0.00
   Other $0.00
   Please Specify: __________
   Total Project Costs $3,922,132.08

Note: The total amount requested must be calculated by subtracting the total other public infrastructure project funding sources in A. from the total public infrastructure project costs in B.
C. Provide a detailed budget narrative, including the timing and steps necessary to obtain the funding and any other pertinent budget-related information.

See attached narrative.

4. Approvals and Authority
(If additional space is needed, attach a word document with your entire answer.)

A. If the governmental entity is awarded grant funds based on this proposal, what approvals must be obtained before it can execute a grant agreement with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (e.g., approval of a board, commission or council)?

Approval by the Melbourne Airport Authority.

If board authorization is not required, who is authorized to sign?

N/A

B. If approval of a board, commission, council or other group is needed prior to execution of an agreement between the governmental entity and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity:

i. Provide the schedule of upcoming meetings for the group for a period of at least six months.

ii. State whether entity is willing and able to hold special meetings, and if so, upon how many days' notice.

Melbourne Airport Authority board meetings take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month, and a special meeting can be called with ten (10) days' notice.

C. Attach evidence that the undersigned has all necessary authority to execute this proposal on behalf of the governmental entity. This evidence may take a variety of forms, including but not limited to: a delegation of authority, citation to relevant laws or codes, policy documents, etc.

N/A
I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have express authority to sign this proposal on behalf of the above-described entity and to the best of my knowledge, that all data and information submitted in proposal is truthful and accurate and no material fact has been omitted.

Name of Governmental Entity: City of Melbourne Airport Authority

Name and Title of Authorized Representative: Greg Donovan, AAE, Airport Executive Director

Representative Signature: [Signature]

Signature Date: 8/28/19
Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) is seeking funding support from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) in the amount of $3,930,000 for infrastructure improvements to retain and create Florida jobs.
August 28, 2019

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor
State of Florida
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis,

Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) is applying for a Public Infrastructure Grant from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) in the amount of $3,930,000. The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund has the potential to support critical public infrastructure projects at MLB that would bring economic prosperity and employment to Florida.

Over the last 10 years, an unprecedented amount of growth and job creation has taken place at MLB. Embraer Executive Jets’ North American headquarters has landed airside at MLB, bringing 1,000 new jobs to design and assemble six jets, including the world’s most successful business jet of the decade. Northrop Grumman has expanded their MLB footprint to 2 million square feet of office and lab space housing nearly 5,000 high-wage jobs to support their B-21 Raider, E2-D Hawkeye and Orbital ATK programs. L3Harris’ recent merger, the largest in defense history, has decided to keep its world headquarters right next to MLB. In addition, MLB has been shortlisted for an opportunity that will potentially create 500+ jobs and invest more than $200 million into our community.

In order for this momentum to continue, significant infrastructure investments must be made. If awarded, this grant would fund water and sewer infrastructure improvements to MLB’s vacant property on the north side of the airport that is already under consideration for development and job creation. Existing tenants would also benefit with a suitable environment to grow existing operations and jobs.

Attached with this letter, you will find a detailed application outlining our need for the funding and the plan to successfully attract, retain and grow highly skilled jobs at MLB. We look forward to your support in this very important endeavor for our airport, our community and the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

Greg Donovan, A.A.E.
Executive Director
PROPOSAL HIGHLIGHTS

An epicenter of aviation and aerospace growth.
MLB has proved itself as a leader in aviation and aerospace job creation and company growth with Embraer Executive Jets’ aircraft assembly facility, Northrop Grumman’s Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence and L3Harris’ announcement to keep its World HQ at MLB.

Continue the momentum at MLB.
Improvements to the public infrastructure on the north side of the airport would preserve MLB’s competitiveness when being considered for economic opportunity and job creation.

Multi-user benefits.
This project would present benefits for many airport users - old, new and future. The MLB infrastructure improvements would give Embraer an environment to continue its growth.

MLB has been shortlisted for more high paid Florida jobs.
Project Peregrine II has shortlisted Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) as the sole airport in Florida for a potential aircraft manufacturing operation that would potentially bring hundreds of highly skilled and highly paid engineering, technical and manufacturing jobs averaging an annual salary of more than $110,000.

The workforce is already training.
There are educational institutions already partnered with MLB, including high schools, state programs and higher education, which are training the workforce in engineering, business and aircraft manufacturing.

A unified vision.
MLB and Enterprise Florida share the same vision to target specific industries like Aircraft and Aircraft Parts Manufacturing (NAICS Code 336411 Aircraft Manufacturing).

Active negotiations with airport incentives.
MLB is self-sustaining and generates 85% of its revenue from non-aeronautical activity. MLB is anticipating approximately $3 million in airport rent credits to the prospective tenant to assist in the negotiation and recruitment of the company, ultimately bringing more jobs to Florida.

Aligns with Airport Master Plan.
This project aligns perfectly with MLB’s most recent 2018 Master Plan Update, providing necessary infrastructure for tenant growth, job creation and economic development.
WELCOME TO ORLANDO MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (MLB)

Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) is a non-hub primary airport located on the east coast of Central Florida in Brevard County. The airport’s 2,500-acre campus has proved itself to be one of the fastest growing aviation and aerospace centers in Florida and the nation. With a workday population exceeding 20,000, MLB is home to Embraer Executive Jets North American Headquarters, L3Harris Technologies World Headquarters, Northrop Grumman’s Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence, Collins Aerospace, Thales, and more.

According to Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) 2019 Florida Statewide Aviation Economic Study, MLB’s annual economic impact is $2.8 billion, which is up $1.6 billion in the past 5 years alone. FDOT has also recognized Orlando Melbourne International as the top airport in the state, recently naming MLB as 2019 Commercial Service Airport of Year.

In addition to being one of Brevard County’s economic engines, MLB is getting national and international attention as a premiere gateway to Florida. MLB has, once again, been voted the #1 Most Scenic Airport Approach in the U.S.A. on PrivateFly’s list of top airport approaches, and ranked #4 in the world. In 2018, MLB served 489,240 total passengers by American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Elite Airways, and Porter Airlines. MLB’s seasonal international service on Porter Airlines provides Canadians nonstop access to Florida from Toronto (YTZ), Ottawa (YOW) and Windsor (YQG) from December through April. This year, MLB is on track to surpass 500,000 annual passengers with nonstop service to Charlotte (CLT), Philadelphia (PHL) and Washington (DCA) on American Airlines, and Atlanta (ATL) on Delta Air Lines.
AN AIRFIELD REVIVED
Within the last few years, MLB has invested nearly $100 million of improvements to its airfield. All three runways have been completely rehabilitated, taxiway improvements have been made to support the airport’s growing operations, its international Federal Inspection Station has been renovated, and a new air traffic control tower was built. All of these airport investments have been made to support MLB’s current activity and provide an environment to foster company growth and job creation.

THE PERFECT LOCATION TO WORK AND PLAY
MLB is the only commercial service airport on Florida’s Space Coast, and is located along Brevard County’s 72 miles of pristine beaches. It is the closest airport to Port Canaveral, the second busiest cruise port in the world, and is the closest airport to NASA’s Kennedy Space Center. Being located on Central Florida’s Atlantic Coast also provides easy access to Orlando’s world-famous theme park corridor in about an hour’s drive.

Melbourne, Florida was recently named #1 in the nation when it comes to the best places to live near the beach. It also ranked in the top 25 best places to live in the nation. The area’s proximity to beaches, cruises, theme parks, and its centralized Florida location makes it a desirable location for highly-skilled workforce to relocate to with their families.

THE REGION
Aerospace and tourism industries are the economic pillars to the Central Florida and Space Coast region. Being the closest airport to NASA’s Kennedy Space Center, the community suffered from the ending of NASA’s Space Shuttle program in 2011. Ultimately, the end of the program resulted in a loss of 8,000 jobs.

After the shuttle program ended, the airport and region shifted its focus to maintaining and growing its aerospace, defense, aviation, technology and private space industries. The space industry is exceeding the activity from the age of the Shuttle with dozens of rocket launches each year. The privatization of space travel has attracted companies and thousands of employees with SpaceX, United Launch Alliance, Blue Origin and Boeing. The 45th Space Wing is located immediately adjacent to MLB at Patrick Air Force Base, and is responsible for the mission assurance on all Department of Defense satellites and launch vehicles, and all the launches on the eastern seaboard.
ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE
Aviation and aerospace companies have clustered around Orlando Melbourne International Airport’s airfield. According to DefenseNews.com, seven of the top twenty Department of Defense contractors surround MLB. Key tenants that continue to grow include:

- **Northrop Grumman**
  5,000 engineers work adjacent to MLB’s airfield in over 2 million square feet of office and lab space at Northrop Grumman’s Manned Aircraft Design Center of Excellence. Since winning the largest defense contract in history to design the B-21 Raider for the U.S. Air Force’s Long Range Strike Bomber program in 2015, Northrop Grumman has hired an additional 2,000 high-paying jobs. All of the engineering and design for the next-generation bomber will be done at MLB. Northrop Grumman’s E-2D Hawkeye engineering and design program is also located airside at MLB. Northrop Grumman’s acquisition of Orbital ATK has also brought jobs to the airport and Cape Canaveral.

- **L3 Harris Technologies**
  Recently, Harris Corporation and L3 Technologies, Inc. completed the largest defense merger in history, creating L3Harris Technologies. As a result, L3Harris is now the sixth largest defense company in the U.S. The company has also decided to keep its world headquarters in Melbourne, located adjacent to airport property. As a result, L3 Technologies’ former headquarters in Manhattan, will be relocated to Melbourne, Florida. Before the merger, Harris had approximately 6,500 employees in Brevard.

- **Embraer Executive Jets**
  Located airside at MLB is Embraer Executive Jets’ North American Headquarters where they assemble, paint, sell and deliver their Phenom 100, Phenom 300, Legacy 450, Legacy 500, Praetor 500 and Praetor 600 business jets. The operation currently employs approximately 1,000 engineering, aircraft manufacturing and supporting jobs. Embraer’s Phenom jets are now exclusively assembled at MLB, with its Phenom 300 being the most successful business jet of the decade. In fact, nearly every one of Embraer’s general aviation aircraft are delivered at MLB, even if they are assembled elsewhere. Embraer has an additional 100 acres of airport property optioned for future growth.

- **STS Mod Center**
  STS Aviation Group operates a maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility out of MLB’s 83,000 sq. ft. hangar. Customers include American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Atlas Air, Azul Airlines, and other worldwide.

Other tenants located on airport property include Collins Aerospace, Thales, GE Transportation, Alstom, Southeast Aerospace, and Satcom Direct, among many others.
THE WORKFORCE IS IN TRAINING

The area surrounding Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) is dedicated to fueling the ever-growing aerospace industry with a sufficient workforce. Not only is the area bringing professionals from around the nation to Florida for new jobs, but local institutions are providing the community with educational opportunities to help prepare for the expanding workforce. Key educational institutions supporting the workforce include:

- **Florida Institute of Technology**
  World-renown aviation and engineering university, Florida Tech, continues to provide over 1,000 engineering, aviation and business graduates annually that are entering right into the workforce surrounding MLB at companies like Northrop Grumman, Embraer, Collins Aerospace and L3Harris. Florida Tech’s flight training facilities and several of its research facilities are located on airport property.

- **University of Central Florida**
  One of the largest universities in the nation is located in the region and is providing thousands of engineering and business graduates for the workforce. The student population continues to grow, increasing more than 35% over the last five years.

- **Eastern Florida State College (EFSC)**
  Eastern Florida State College’s Airframe & Powerplant program is located airside at MLB. Students are graduating and being directly hired for aircraft manufacturing jobs across the airfield at MLB. The college recently received a $3.8M state grant to train aerospace and advanced manufacturing workers to support the growing industries.

- **Eau Gallie High School**
  Located within 2 miles from the airfield is Eau Gallie High School’s new 7,500 sq. ft. hangar, home to their aviation program. The hangar is enclosed by the high school, but filled with aircraft and training tools. The program gives high school students an opportunity to graduate with Aircraft Assembly and Fabrication 1, 2 and 3, and Private Pilot Ground School certificates. Some students are entering right into the workforce, and other are using the program as a jumpstart to higher education in aviation and aircraft manufacturing.
THE PROJECT
MLB is requesting $3.93 million for public infrastructure improvements to support the extension of St. Michaels Place around the northwest corner of airport property and through Embraer’s optioned property. Within MLB’s most recent 2018 Master Plan Update and the most updated Airport Layout Plan, the 60-acre northwest parcel of the airfield suggests development of a large aircraft operation.

Currently, the parcel does not have the supporting infrastructure to develop it as aeronautical property. General Aviation Drive divides the airfield and the parcel. The master plan suggests the extension of Taxiway M to the north, giving the parcel access to the airfield. The extension of St. Michaels Place would allow for the extension of Taxiway M, airdside development of 60 acres, and provide continued access to tenants that already exist on the northwest corner of airport property.

The below image from MLB’s Airport Layout Plan illustrates the plans described above.
SHORTLISTED FOR AN AVIATION REVOLUTION

Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) has been shortlisted as a site finalist for an aircraft manufacturing project called Project Peregrine II. The aircraft manufacturer is expected to revolutionize the general aviation and corporate flight industries and MLB is the only Florida airport shortlisted. Their planned facilities include headquarters, office, engineering, aircraft assembly, flight support and delivery infrastructure that would be built on the airport’s 60-acre northwest parcel and extending into Embraer’s adjacent optioned property. This would result in the extension of St. Michaels Place in two areas: around the northwest parcel and through the Embraer optioned property.

Project Peregrine II has the potential to bring in hundreds of highly-skilled and highly-paid technical and manufacturing jobs throughout the next few years. By 2025, the workforce is expected to surpass 500 employees and continue to grow. The average wage of the new workforce is more than $110,000 annually. Current educational institutions in the area as listed above would support the workforce, in addition to the current highly skilled labor pool embedded in Brevard County. The job creation would also support recruitment and relocation of existing workforce in other high-tech areas around the nation to Florida.

The funding requested is part of a much larger project to recruit this aircraft manufacturer to Florida’s Orlando Melbourne International Airport. In addition to the company’s planned investment of more than $200 million in facilities, the airport is working to secure additional funding for the remainder of the project to build the extension of St. Michaels Place and to extend Taxiway M into the 60-acre parcel.

If Project Peregrine II selects MLB (anticipated in 2020), the airport and aircraft manufacturer expect to immediately begin construction of facilities. The company’s plan is to complete its first flight by 2024 and certify the new aircraft with the Federal Aviation Administration by 2026.

The prospective tenant is partnered with one of the largest commercial aircraft manufacturers in the world that does not currently operate its aircraft manufacturing in the State of Florida, and partners with one of MLB’s current tenants. The final product would also attract many leading corporate and high-net-worth customers to the area.

The airport has fulfilled almost every requirement for the selection process, including airfield infrastructure, a skilled local workforce, a great local quality of life and operational efficiencies. The site’s power, water and sanitary infrastructure is one of the few remaining requirements and for which this grant will be used. This project also aligns with one of Enterprise Florida’s Qualified Targeted Industries for Incentives under aviation/aerospace, aircraft and aircraft parts manufacturing (North American Industry Classification System code 336411).
BENEFITS TO CURRENT AND FUTURE TENANTS
When the development of the 60-acre northwest parcel and Embraer optioned area is executed, Taxiway M would be extended north intersecting St. Michaels Place and cutting off access to existing aeronautical tenants. A portion of St. Michaels Place would also need to be relocated to provide access to numerous tenants on the airport’s north ramp.

These tenants include Embraer, Hangar, LLC, Southeast Aerospace, AAR, Atlantic Jet Center and dozens of t-hangar tenants, plus Avidyne’s corporate hangar and Health First’s First Flight hangar that are currently under development.

Embraer Executive Jets’ North American Headquarters is also located on the airport’s north side campus. Embraer has more than 100 acres of airport property optioned in anticipation of future development. The new infrastructure improvements along the St. Michaels Place relocation are critical to Embraer’s decision-making for future improvements to their site.

Below is an illustration showing the area to be developed, the extension and relocation of St. Michaels Place, and all the tenants that would benefit from the project.

Project Peregrine II Development Area

St. Michaels Place Extension

St. Michaels Place Relocation
FUNDING

MLB is seeking $3.93 million from the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. This is part of a much larger anticipated project for an aircraft manufacturing campus that would cost the airport approximately $11.5 million. Below is an outline of the airport project to facilitate the growth.

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THE STRATEGIC PLAN
Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) has identified a strategic plan to ensure the success of the potential commitment from the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund.

Below is a list of planned initiatives to ensure the success of the project at MLB:

- **Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Public Infrastructure Grant**
  Receiving the requested $3.93 million through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund would provide critical assistance to installing the proper infrastructure for the development of more than 60 acres of airport property.

- **Additional FDOT, FAA and MAA Funding**
  Airport staff would continue to seek funding support for remaining portions of the overall project from the Florida Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Melbourne Airport Authority.

- **Project Peregrine II Negotiation**
  MLB continues its negotiation efforts to recruit a new aircraft manufacturer to Florida, bringing jobs and investments to boost the economy. MLB is a self-sustaining airport that generates 85% of its revenue from non-aeronautical land leases and operations, and is prepared to offer approximately $3 million in airport rent credits and incentives to the prospective tenant to assist in the negotiation and recruitment of the company.

- **Local Partnerships**
  The airport is working with key local partners on initiatives to help with the funding and logistics of this project. Decades of successful partnership with the Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast and the City of Melbourne continue in efforts to bring more jobs and growth to the State of Florida.
DESIGNATED LEGAL SPONSOR
The City of Melbourne Airport Authority is the legal sponsor for the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund Public Infrastructure Grant. The airport executive director, Greg Donovan, A.A.E., is the authorized representative. He has over 28 years of airport experience and has served as MLB’s airport director since 2014. He previously served as airport director at Pensacola International Airport (PNS) and Okaloosa County’s three airports including Destin/Ft. Walton Beach Airport (VPS). He is an Accredited Airport Executive from the American Association of Airport Executives and an aviation graduate from Florida Institute of Technology. Rob Himler, C.M., the airport’s marketing and communications coordinator, is the airport contact. He has served the airport for the last four years focusing on the marketing and communications initiatives. He is a Certified Member with the American Association of Airport Executives and a graduate of Florida Institute of Technology with a Master’s degree in airport development.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT
Orlando Melbourne International Airport has reached out to its community and industry partners for letters of support. The airport anticipates strong support from current and prospective tenants, and community leaders. In the interest of time, the airport has submitted this application before receiving all anticipated letters of support and will continue to submit letters as they are received.
August 27, 2019

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor
State of Florida
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Support of Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) Infrastructure Assistance Request, Job Growth Grant Fund, Public Infrastructure Proposal

Dear Governor DeSantis:

On behalf of the Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast (EDC), I am pleased to support the Orlando Melbourne International Airport’s (MLB) grant funding request to support public infrastructure improvements at MLB. These improvements will enable the continued high-wage job creation success that Brevard County has worked for and achieved since the end of the Space Shuttle program.

Over the years, the EDC has worked closely with the state and our economic development partners at MLB to drive the attraction of thousands of very high-wage jobs at many of the companies that are tenants of MLB including, Embraer, Northrup Grumman, STS Modification Center, Collins Aerospace and L3 Harris Technologies.

The successful development of these and other projects now requires that additional infrastructure investment be made to drive future growth and support the ambitions of potential and existing tenants. If granted, these funds will play a pivotal part in fostering the development of an additional 100 aeronautical acres by enabling needed improvements to MLB’s water and sewer infrastructure in a timely manner.

As you know, Florida’s strength in the aerospace sector is renowned. However, the national competition for these economic impact projects remains very high. I believe that this grant will help maintain the momentum we have built and help to drive the continued success in this sector for both Brevard and Florida.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynda Weatherman
President & CEO