



**ERIE**  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
TOM RIDGE FIELD

**2022** | **ANNUAL REPORT**

# Table of Contents

**1** Message from Derek Martin

**2** Message from Dan Giannelli

**3** About Erie Airport

**4** Air Service Environment in the Region

**5** Capital Projects and Grants

**7** News

**9** Challenges

**10** Opportunities & Successes

**11** Appendix

## Message from Derek V. Martin A.A.E. — ERAA Executive Director

*The Erie Regional Airport Authority continues to emerge from the global pandemic on strong footing, operating with air service from American Airlines and United Airlines, as well as cargo operations by FedEx. We are in a healthy cash position and committed to partnering with our airlines and other vendors for continued safe and secure operations.*

*2022 saw a strong recovery of leisure travelers, which picked up the slack for business travelers who were slow to return and are just now starting to approach 2019 flying levels.*

*Through October, we operated at an average 86.2% load factor for the year, which underscores our ability to grow passenger service. Though the pilot shortage and dramatic increase in airline operating costs are still major challenges, we persist in our exploration of additional passenger service with major airlines in order to provide more flights and destinations in the future.*

*As part of our ongoing efforts to improve our facility, we completed the finishing touches on a 4-year initiative backed by more than \$25 million in funding from the Federal Aviation Administration. We also secured approximately \$30 million in funding for two other construction projects.*

*Meanwhile, in our unwavering commitment to our community, we held several interactive events at the airport including TSA Precheck Enrollment Pop-Up Events, a HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response Event, and an Airport Ramp FOD Walk with McDowell High School JROTC.*

*With the three major surrounding international airports roughly a two-hour drive away, and Toronto within three hours' drive, ERI remains the most-convenient quality travel option for residents of Erie County and surrounding communities.*

*2022 came with many challenges and successes, and we stand poised for big things ahead. I encourage you to read our Annual Report and learn more about our progress and plans for future growth.*

*Derek Martin*

## Message from Dan Giannelli – President of the ERAA Board of Directors

*The last few years have been hard times for the airline industry to say the least – especially for small-market regional airports.*

*With the global pandemic; rising costs of operating 50-seat regional jets; labor shortages for pilots, mechanics, and ground staff; and increased fuel and labor costs, it's been a struggle for some to stay afloat. Some airports have sadly lost all passenger service.*

*Despite these unprecedented challenges and Delta's business decision to leave ERI in 2020, I am proud to say that we are weathering the storm and coming out of it with new resolve to make ERI better than ever as flying begins its rebound.*

*Thanks to the hard work and dedication of ERAA leadership and airport staff, we continue to be financially strong and operate a safe and efficient airport facility delivering exceptional customer service from curb to gate.*

*We have also made dramatic improvements to the airport over the last few years and are working effortlessly to make further strides in service, infrastructure and long-term sustainability.*

*Our top priority has always been to give everybody in the greater Erie region a convenient, quality airport to fly out of and enable them to reach their desired destination at a reasonable cost. At the same time, we strive to be a valuable resource to help our community grow and thrive.*

*The federal government has recognized our significance to the Erie ecosystem, awarding us millions of dollars in infrastructure support. We take these investments very seriously and make sure every cent is spent wisely for the betterment of the airport and Erie community.*

*ERAA has always been a good steward of public funds and has an excellent working relationship with the FAA. However, during 2022, a Part 13 complaint was filed with the Federal Aviation Administration by a local citizen alleging that the airport had been non-compliant with federal regulations. While the investigation is ongoing, we look forward to the resolution of this review and expect the results to find us in full compliance.*

*As more and more people return to flying, we promise to take every step possible to ensure ERI offers the best possible flying experience for our travelers.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Giannelli".

## **Erie International Airport** **an Essential Resource for the Erie Region**

Boasting “one stop to 400 cities around the world” Erie International Airport, Tom Ridge Field is a vital asset and economic catalyst for the Erie region and surrounding communities, facilitating over 1,700 jobs, and annually providing over 100,000 passengers with hassle-free flight services and access to the national transport system.

### **Baggage Claim to Pajamas in 10 Minutes**

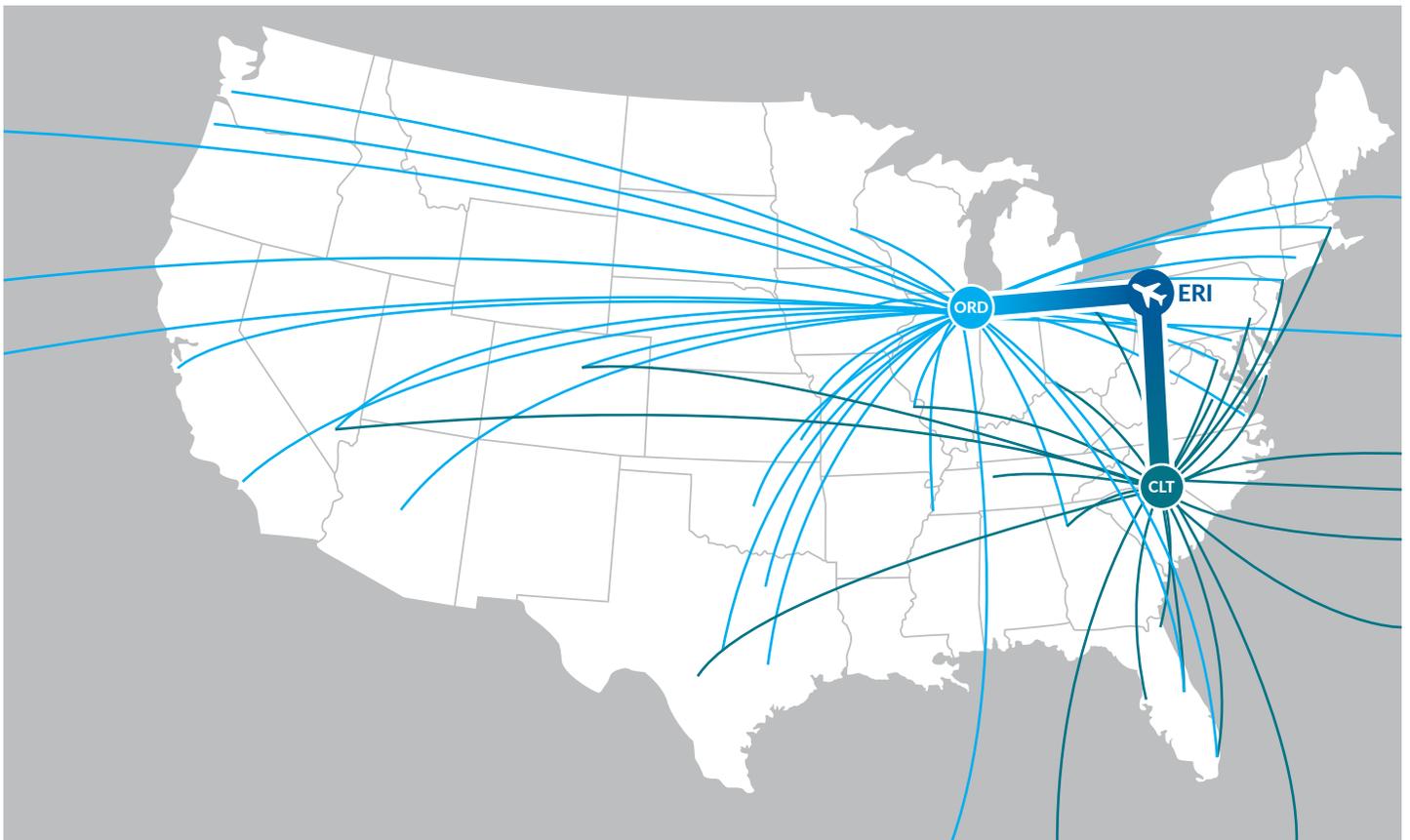
The best option for business and family flights into or out of Erie, Pennsylvania, ERI offers everything the busy traveler needs including convenient parking, access to public transit, easy boarding, complimentary wireless internet access, trouble-free baggage services, and friendly staff. It also provides aviation services including flight training, full-service fueling and U.S. Customs & Border Protection clearance.

### **E.R.A.A. Committed to Moving ERI Forward**

The Erie Regional Airport Authority operates in the best interests of the airport and region, and is dedicated to expanding ERI’s capabilities, as evidenced by the millions of dollars in federal funds spent on recent improvements and granted for future projects.

## **Oh, the Places We Can Go!** **Current Air Service at ERI**

The Erie International Airport, Tom Ridge Field is the primary commercial service airport for the Erie, Pennsylvania MSA and surrounding areas. Served by two of the largest network carriers in America, ERI offers nonstop flights to Chicago and Charlotte where travelers can connect to nonstop flights to some of the most popular destinations in the world. That's just one stop between Erie and domestic cities like Orlando, Vegas and LA, as well as international ones like London, Tokyo and Delhi!



# Financials Snapshot

## 2022 Financial Highlights

The ERAA executive team and board of directors have been meticulous in our budget management. Consequently, ERI is positioned for robust growth in 2023.

- \$190,000 under budgeted expenses, year to date
- Parking revenue \$40,216 over expectations
- Averaged 86.2% load factor, year to date

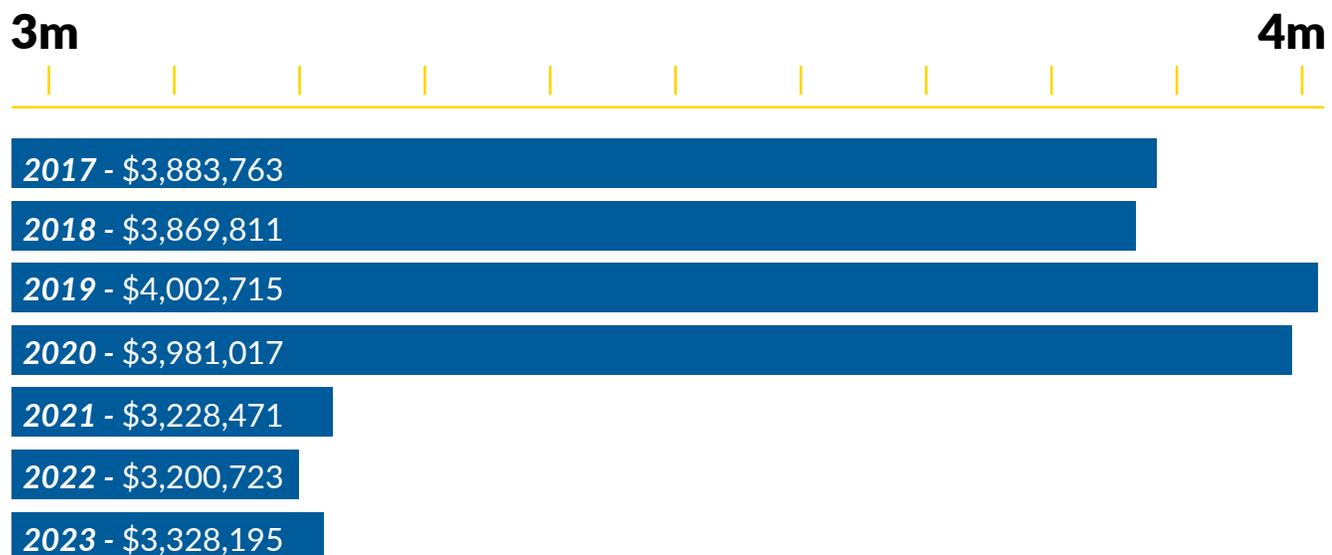
## CPE (Cost Per Enplaned Passenger)

Considered a key metric to evaluate the financial operations. cost per enplaned passenger, or CPE, is the average passenger airline payment per enplaned passenger at a given airport.

2017 - \$26.27	2020 - \$41.21
2018 - \$21.50	2021 - \$23.87
2019 - \$19.73	2022 - \$20.35

## Operating Budgets (Expenses)

The 2022 operating budget was the lowest in the past 6 years.



# Financials Snapshot

## 2022 Capital Projects & Grants

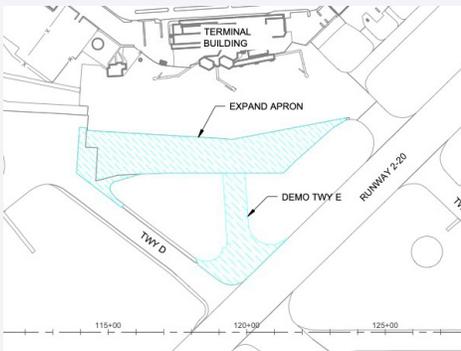
(See Appendix for 2021 Audited Financial Statements)

Expanding our footprint is one of our strategic goals, and we are making great strides in our ongoing efforts to improve our facility.

### Recent Expansion & Upgrades

In 2022, we completed the terminal apron expansion, the jet bridge upgrade and the electrical upgrades to the terminal building – the culmination of a 4-year, \$25 million FAA-funded project.

#### Terminal Apron Expansion



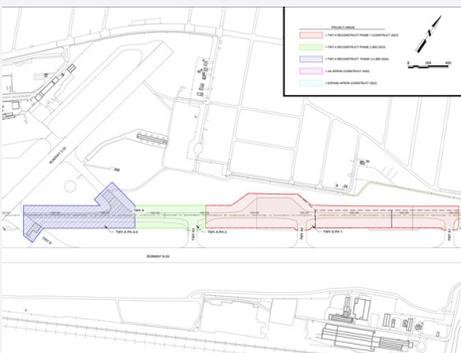
#### Jet Bridge Upgrade



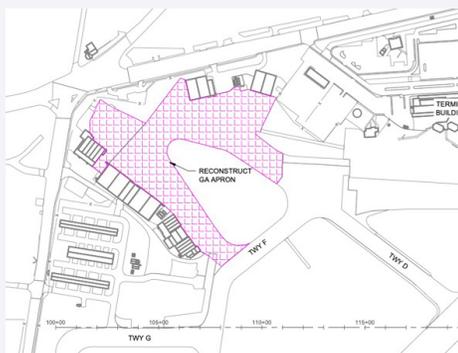
### Future Renovations

We secured approximately \$30 million in funding for two other construction projects: one being the taxiway alpha realignment, and the other being the construction of the general aviation ramp located at 12th and Asbury, funded by a \$4 million community service grant awarded with the assistance of Congressman Mike Kelly.

#### Airport Taxiway



#### Aviation Ramp



# NEWS

## ERI Community Event Highlights

We understand that ERI and the Erie region have a symbiotic relationship and that we work best when we work together. Coming out of the pandemic afforded us few opportunities to reach out to the community, but we did get to host a few events in 2022, and we look forward to hosting many more in the coming years.

### TSA Precheck Enrollment Pop-Up Event

This event provided passengers a convenient opportunity to complete their application for the popular expedited screening program on-site with Idemia | Identogo where they captured fingerprints for a background check and collected the fee for five years of service.



### Airport Ramp FOD Walk with McDowell High School JROTC

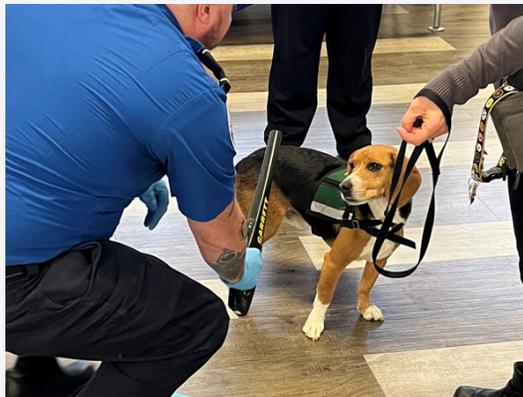
A great way to get the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps from our local high school involved with the airport, the FOD Walk event offers tours and education to identify career paths for students. We have hosted this group various times over the past 4 years.



# NEWS

## HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response Event

An organization that offers support in times of crisis or disaster by providing dogs to comfort those affected, HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response partnered with us to help expose both dogs and handlers to an airport environment to make traveling easier when the time comes.



## Ford Tri-Motor Event

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) showcased the first-ever mass-produced airliner, the Ford Tri-Motor 5-AT, which made its debut flight nearly 100 years ago. Visitors were encouraged to walk around inside and outside of the aircraft or take a flight around the city.



# Challenges

## Legal Fees for FAA Inquiries (costs and findings)

\$14,855.50

## Right-to-Know Requests (costs and findings)

\$2,240.00

## Timeline Leading to Delta's Business Decision to Leave ERI

Delta's 2020 exit from ERI was not a reflection on this airport or our community but a reflection of a change in business strategy.

It was the inevitable result of its business decision to retire its all-coach 50-seat CRJ-200s and replace them with a much larger aircraft which would not be feasible to operate at ERI.

The Erie Regional Airport Authority continues to work with our airline partners to bring the community additional options for air service as we continue to recover from the global pandemic.

**2005**

Flying of the CRJ-200 begins to decrease.

**2006**

The last year CRJ200 jetliners were constructed.

**2009**

Northwest Airlines and Delta Air Lines merge with a combined 500 CRJ-200 aircrafts in their fleet.

**2013**

Fuel costs have made smaller 50-seat regional jets uneconomical on many US routes, accelerating the retirement of young CRJ200s.

**2020**

July – Delta ceases operations at ERI.

September – Delta announces that it will eliminate all CRJ200s from its fleet by 2023, replacing them with Airbus 220s – the only aircraft purposely built for 100-150 seat markets.

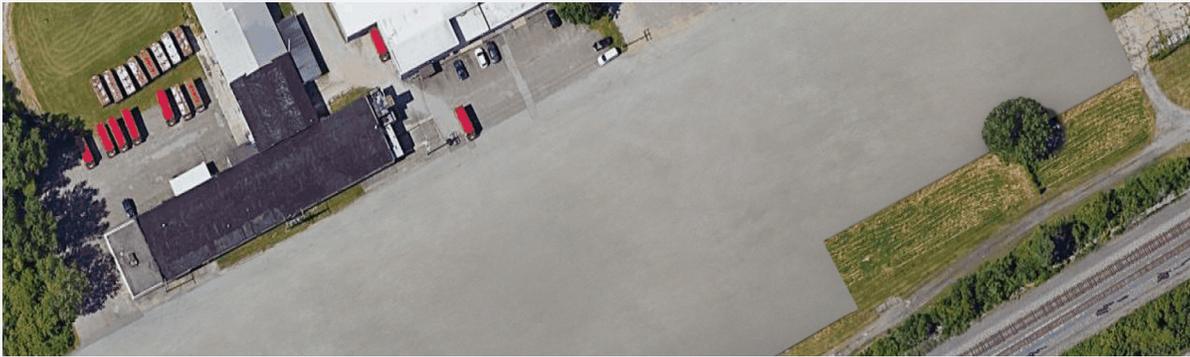
# ☰ Opportunities/Successes:

## Growth Opportunities to Chicago

### Larger Jets

The United Airlines' CRJ 700 is larger, features more seats including First Class and Economy Plus, and WiFi options.

## Land Available for Development



## Success of Fundamentals Flight Training

Started in May 2021 to provide the area with affordable, safe, and quality flight training for private pilot through commercial pilot training, Fundamentals Flight Training grew substantially in 2022:

- 20 students received their private pilot licenses and one student received his commercial license.
- They obtained FAA certification to conduct Part 141 flight training thus allowing them to partner with local universities like Penn West Edinboro.
- They purchased a FAA-certified full-motion flight simulator and an additional three aircraft.
- With help from the EAA, they hosted the Ford Tri-Motor event over the summer.
- They plan to host larger events for summer 2023.

Fundamentals Flight Training remains focused on promoting general aviation in the Erie area. They host the Civil Air Patrol for weekly meetings, and the EAA conducts their meetings at the school's office. They are also joining with the non-profit organization Flying For Veterans to get US veterans in the air, flying free of charge.

# APPENDIX:

## 2021 Audited Financial Statements

