



Jim Hamilton – LB Owens Airport
Richland County Airport Commission
Richland County Department of Public Works
Your *downtown* Columbia Airport for 90 years
♦ *1400 Jim Hamilton Blvd ♦ Columbia, South Carolina 29205 ♦*
♦ *www.FlyKCUB.com ♦*

From: Richland County Airport Commission Chairman Joel McCreary
Date: September 2, 2020
Subject: The Jim Hamilton - L.B. Owens Airport – A Community Asset

Airports affect us all on a daily basis. A young child, eyes aloft, watching a passing airplane with curiosity pique by a sense of mystery, wondering the destination, pondering whose on it and why are they going there, awed at its ability of flight and thrilled at the adventure of its journey.

We've all felt that at some point in our lives. Airports and aircraft contribute to that entire, but to so much more that we are just generally not aware.

The Jim Hamilton - L.B. Owens Airport (KCUB), serves as an aviation threshold and portal to our local community and the midlands. Aviation contributes so much to our society and has truly served as one of the originating and driving forces of a global network and economy since 1927, when the first flight from New York to Paris took place. Noting longevity, aviation trades and flying itself are where that global network and economy are hatched and nurtured in which KCUB has played a long term and on-going role. It has been doing it for 90 years since its development by the City in 1930. In fact, this year is our downtown Airport's 90th anniversary. Our airport has been the location of development by the Wright Brother's company, a visit by

Amelia Earhart and military training for World War 2. It has provided a threshold for so much in its history and continues to provide that service.

Our Downtown Airport serves as the base for Law Enforcement (the Richland County Sherriff's Department) where operations include their helicopters and fixed wing aircraft that patrol our community and keep us safe.

KCUB offers Aircraft maintenance and that local industry employs numerous trade persons educated and skilled in power plants, air frames and avionics that are also tax paying, consuming residents of our community.

The Jim Hamilton - L.B. Owens Airport also serves as a designated reliever airport for the Columbia Metropolitan Airport as an emergency facility. It is designated to relieve airspace congestion at Columbia Metro and to provide improved general aviation access to the overall community.

https://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/passenger_allcargo_stats/categories/

KCUB serves as a threshold for over \$5,000,000 in visitor spending alone and a total \$16,120,210 annual direct and indirect economic impact for the region. Of that amount, over \$688,000 is contributed to State Tax Revenues. (South Carolina Aeronautics Commission (SCAC) South Carolina Economic Development Technical Report, 2018),

https://scaeronautics.sc.gov/download/2018_Economic_Impact_Technical_FinalReport.pdf

For most folks though, aviation is not a cognizant part of their daily life perhaps excepting the occasional aircraft they hear above during their day. Unless a pilot, affiliated with, employed in an aviation related field or affected by an airport, community members aren't necessarily aware of what our general aviation airports do for us.

Through airport activities and operations at KCUB we support our local:

- Construction industries and trades
- IT industries
- Realtors
- Professional services and consultant industries
- Fuel suppliers
- Airport services operators
- Other aviation related businesses
- Local law enforcement
- Medical air transport services

- Military aviation
- General aviation
- Flight training
- Aviation related training and employment opportunities
- Insurance Services
- Financial Services
- Airbnb's
- Ground transportation industries
- Hospitality industry including hotels, restaurants and more...
- Athletics and affiliated events and venues
- Tourism / Eco Tourism
- Local charities
- City tax revenues
- County tax revenues
- State tax revenues
- University operations and financial development
- Regional economic development

In 2018, general aviation nationwide employed 273,500 workers and indirectly supported 1.2 million jobs while keeping a fleet of more than 211,000 aircraft flying for business and individual operators, according to a new report that analyzed the industry's impact and output; a \$247 billion industry. <https://www.aopa.org/news-and-media/all-news/2020/february/19/ga-a-force-in-national-and-local-economies>

So, though we are just a small public airport, The Jim Hamilton - L.B. Owens Airport plays an important role in our community, state and national infrastructure. Our stewardship of such an important asset is crucial. It is irreplaceable. Its role in the fabric of our community is significant as is its role in the fabric of aviation in the world.



Joel McCreary

Richland County Airport Commission Chairman