

D1LG, Airport Commissioner Pyle Update (Views My Own) July 13th, 2019 #FLYSJC

[The words and how they are organized below are Ken Pyle's and do not necessarily reflect the Airport Staff's view.]

The Centre for Aviation had a nice article on San Jose Mineta International discussing how SJC continues to grow despite losing long haul flights from Lufthansa and Air China. Domestic travel drove SJC's 14.7% growth in 2018, which meant 14.3 million annual passengers, easily surpassing Oakland International's 13.6 M passengers.

As pointed in the article, "the airport has recently won focus city status from Delta Airlines, which should ensure stability." It would be interesting to know how many of the travelers are commuters working in Silicon Valley and "living" in another city. Read more at:

<https://centreforaviation.com/analysis/reports/san-jose-mineta-airport-strong-growth-despite-long-haul-setbacks-477969>

Kudos to SJC Airport Staff for on-time completion of the much-needed Gates 31 to 36. These gates are viewed as an interim measure until such time as it makes sense to expand into more traditional terminal. They were designed as much as possible to integrate into such a future terminal.

How cool is this, a local tech company, Synapse, is using SJC to test artificial intelligence to assist TSA agents identify objects going through scanners. The company claims its technology as 2x more accurate than relying solely on a human's judgement. It promises safety and efficiency improvements, while allowing TSA agents to focus on higher-level tasks like interacting with passengers.

<http://nbc.com/2019/05/30/new-artificial-intelligence-bag-screening-for-airports/>

SJC issued an RFP for a new parking garage where the economy parking lot is (between the Guadalupe River and 87 on the North side of the airport). Council approved SJC to go to bid on 3/26 and the Airport Commission was given a brief overview at our 2/11/19 meeting.

What I don't understand is how an RFP can be released, given the new Airport Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is still being written and won't be released until late summer/early fall. Several commentators mentioned this garage in the notice of EIR preparation.

My concern is whether the airport's analysis included alternatives to building, such as Transportation Demand programs, as that might not only be a lower cost alternative it might do more to further the City of San Jose's environmental goals. So far, I haven't seen whether this sort of analysis was performed.

Stay tuned.....

Next meeting is August 26th, 2019 at SJC, 1701 Airport Boulevard Boeing/McDonnell Conference Room

Respectfully submitted by Ken Pyle, District 1 Airport Commissioner