Charlotte Douglas International Airport plans to present the Airport Area Strategic Development Plan (AASDP) draft final to City Council in coming weeks. Once the proposal is given the green light by Council, CLT will move to the next phase—actively recruiting businesses to land owned by the Airport within a 25-square mile area north and south of the airfield.

The AASDP is an initiative that launched last fall to stimulate land development around the Airport aimed at creating economic and employment opportunities. MXD Development Strategists of Vancouver, Canada were hired by CLT officials in October 2015 to help identify types of businesses compatible with aircraft activity. Within the proposal, suggestions include building retail stores and a hotel with adjoining office space along Wilkinson Blvd.

The plan also recommends developing land along Yorkmont Rd. for companies specializing in logistics and for businesses in need of a cold-store facility to house products. Airport officials note the AASDP is constantly evolving and may change, but anticipate development projects underway within the next five years.

CLT Takes Next Step in Commercial Development

American Airlines and ViaAir Add New Flights

American Airlines kicks off nonstop service to Havana, Cuba on November 30. Charlotte was one of 10 cities nationwide selected by the US Department of Transportation to offer a flight to the Cuban capital. The service will be one daily flight on an Airbus A319, which holds 144 seats, including eight in business class. General tourism to Havana is banned by federal law. Passengers seeking to travel to Cuba must qualify under one of 12 exemptions and obtain a visa. Visit aa.com for more information and to book a flight.

ViaAir begins nonstop service to Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport (SHD) in Weyers Cave, VA on November 30 and to Orlando Sanford International Airport (SFB) in Sanford, FL on December 11. Passengers will take flight in an
Destination CLT, the Airport’s $2.5 billion capital investment program, is making progress. Construction of the elevated roadway remains one year ahead of schedule, and work began in October on Concourse A and East Terminal expansions. When completed, these projects will reshape the landscape of CLT and begin the second phase of construction to modernize and expand CLT’s terminal and airfield.

**Elevated Roadway**
Currently, 25 percent of the elevated roadway has been completed. Construction is set to wrap up in August 2018. The new roadway will expand the lanes in front of the terminal from eight lanes to 16 lanes - eight lanes in Arrivals/Baggage Claim (lower level) and eight lanes in Departures/Ticketing (upper level). In early November, the pouring of concrete on the first section of public vehicle lanes began.

Crews continue to install girders, which act as support beams, for the elevated lanes. A total of 213 girders will be installed for the project. Work on the west and east underground pedestrian tunnels also is progressing and is now 25 percent complete. The tunnels will allow CLT visitors to bypass vehicle traffic from the Hourly Deck to the terminal. They will open to the public once the terminal lobby expansion is complete in 2021.

**Concourse A Expansion - Phase I**
Construction of Concourse A Expansion - Phase I began in October with the installation of utilities and pier foundations. As for new terminal construction, Charlotte Douglas intends to implement sustainable design elements to include energy efficient building materials, heating systems and lighting. The expansion will provide additional gate space for the airlines currently housed on Concourse A.

**East Terminal Expansion - Phase II**
East Terminal Expansion - Phase II construction started in October. Site and utility work is underway. The 51,000-square foot addition includes a food court, offices and baggage handling space, as well as two new escalators and elevators in the Concourse E Connector. Construction will take three years to complete.

**Long Term Lot 4 Improvements**
Long Term Lot 4 has undergone significant improvements, which include the paving and repairing of the 3,800 space lot. Additional lighting, two new exit lanes and a roundabout on Old Dowd Rd. between Long Term 4 and Employee Lot 1 have been installed, as well.

**Long Term Lot 2 Expansion**
The Airport is adding 1,500 spaces to Long Term Lot 2. Construction will begin on the north side of the lot before the end of the year and wrap up by November 2017. Long Term Lot 2 currently has more than 3,500 spaces. This summer, the Airport made improvements to Long Term 2 by merging it with Long Term 3 and relocating the entry and exit plazas with the installation of new toll plaza canopies and cashier facilities.
Charlotte Douglas has partnered with Gresham, Smith and Partners (GS&P) to create a wayfinding master plan that outlines design standards for Airport signage. The new guidelines seek to provide a consistent visual and dynamic wayfinding experience for travelers from Airport roadways to the terminal. As part of the process, GS&P staff received feedback from airport employees and passengers. CLT’s current signage also was evaluated for its simplicity and efficiency to deliver its intended message. The Airport’s wayfinding master plan is scheduled for completion in spring 2017. Implementation of the new design standards will occur gradually as CLT renovates and expands.

HMSHost, CLT’s food and beverage concessionaire, has been awarded a contract extension to operate and expand food and beverage offerings at Charlotte Douglas through 2030. This new agreement will result in an estimated $30 million capital investment to enhance existing restaurants and to invest in new restaurant locations. HMSHost currently operates 43 dining locations at Charlotte Douglas. CLT’s retail concessionaire, Paradies Lagardère, will preview an XpressSpa kiosk at the lower end of the A/B Connector this fall, and plans to open an XpressSpa store on the A/B Connector this spring. Whether it’s a massage, nail care, skin care, or waxing, travelers will leave the spa feeling refreshed and ready for their trip. Paradies will also open Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in Baggage Claim this winter. Travelers may treat themselves to amazing selection of gourmet chocolates, caramel apples and fudge made with the finest ingredients.

The USO of North Carolina celebrated its tenth anniversary at Charlotte Douglas in September with a celebratory ceremony that included a performance by the USO Show Troupe. The center opened on the second floor of the Atrium on September 1, 2006. Today, it welcomes daily an average of 400 active and retired military members and their families and boasts more than 300 volunteers. Visitors are treated to computer stations, a children’s play area, and a lounge furnished with a big screen TV and recliners. Last year, the USO CLT Center served 154,014 guests making it one of the busiest USOs in the country.

Drivers picking up passengers are encouraged to use the Hourly Deck to park. The first hour is free. Travelers are asked to arrive at the Airport at least two hours before their departure time and to visit cltairport.com for the latest parking information.

Charlotte Douglas International Airport is the fifth busiest airport in the country averaging more than 700 daily departures with nonstop service to 162 destinations, including 32 international locations.
More than 3,000 runners and walkers signed up to participate in Charlotte Douglas International Airport’s Runway 5K Run on October 29. This year, the Run celebrated its tenth anniversary.

The overall winner was Mike Mitchell of Charlotte with a time of 16 minutes. Paula Pridgen, also of Charlotte, captured the top female spot, crossing the finish line in 17:45.

As in the past, this year’s Run benefited the LIFESPAN LIFEWORkS Program. The nonprofit organization assists children and adults with disabilities. From 2008 to 2015, the Run has raised close to $200,000 for LIFESPAN. Currently, 53 LIFESPAN participants work at CLT.