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Airport Authority President/CEO Bowens named to Aviation Advisory Committee by U.S. Transportation Secretary

Bowens one of only three airport chiefs named to committee

SAN DIEGO – May 13, 2010 – U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has named San Diego County Regional Airport Authority President/CEO Thella F. Bowens to a new federal committee on the future of the U.S. aviation industry, which will hold its first meeting May 25 in Washington, DC. The Future of Aviation Advisory Committee was formally established in March to provide information, advice and recommendations to Secretary La Hood on ensuring the competitiveness of the U.S. aviation industry and its capability to address the evolving transportation needs, challenges and opportunities of the U.S. and global economies.

“Aviation is essential to our nation’s economy and our ability to compete in international commerce,” Secretary LaHood said. “This committee, which represents a broad cross-section of the aviation community, will begin the important conversation about how to ensure the industry remains vital and competitive.”

The committee is scheduled to meet five times over the next year, after which it will issue its recommendations to the Secretary. The committee will focus principally on five issue areas:

- ensuring aviation safety
- ensuring a world-class aviation workforce
- balancing the industry’s competitiveness and viability
- securing stable funding for aviation systems
- addressing environmental challenges and solutions

Bowens was appointed President/CEO of the Airport Authority in 2003. Prior to 2003, when the San Diego Unified Port District operated the airport, she was the Port’s Senior Director of Aviation for seven years. Before coming to San Diego, Bowens served as Deputy Executive Director of Kansas City’s Aviation Department, which included Kansas City International Airport and the city’s two general aviation airports. She previously served as Budget Administrator for the Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport in Texas. She has acquired 35 years of experience in public administration, with the last 22 years in the aviation field.

Currently Ms. Bowens is Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Airports Council International – North America and serves on the American Association of Airport Executives Policy Review committee. In addition, she is a member of the boards of the San Diego World Trade Center, the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of San Diego Campaign Cabinet Team.

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The Future of Aviation Advisory Committee grew out of a forum last November hosted by Secretary LaHood on the future of the U.S. aviation industry, during which he urged attendees to nominate potential committee members. The members selected represent airlines, airports, labor, manufacturers, environment, finance, academia, consumer interests and general aviation stakeholders.

Susan Kurland, Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation, will chair the committee. Bowens is joined by two other airport directors on the committee: Susan M. Baer, Director of the Aviation Department for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and Raul Regalado, President and CEO of the Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority. Other committee members are:

1. Juan J. Alonso, Associate Professor, Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Stanford University
2. David Barger, President and CEO, JetBlue Airways Corporation
3. Bryan K. Bedford, Chairman, President and CEO, Republic Airways
4. Severin Borenstein, Professor, HAAS School of Business, University of California, Berkeley
5. John M. Conley, International Administrative Vice President and Air Transport Division Director, Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
6. Cynthia M. Egnotovitch, Segment President, Nacelles and Interior Systems, Goodrich Corporation
7. Patricia A. Friend, International President, Association of Flight Attendants-Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO
8. Robert L. Lekites, President, UPS Airlines
9. Ana McAhron-Schulz, Director of Economic and Financial Analysis, Air Line Pilots Association
10. William J. McGee, Consultant to the Consumers Union
11. Daniel McKenzie, U.S. Airlines Research Analyst, Hudson Securities
12. Jack J. Pelton, Chairman, President and CEO, Cessna Aircraft Company
13. Nicole W. Piasecki, Vice President, Business Development, Boeing Commercial Airplanes
14. Glenn F. Tilton, Chairman, President and CEO, UAL Corporation
15. Christopher J. Williams, Chairman and CEO, The Williams Capital Group

The first meeting of the committee will take place May 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Department of Transportation Headquarters located at 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC. Meetings will be open to members of the general public who have registered to attend in advance, on a first-come, first-serve basis, as long as space is available. People wishing to register can send their name, title, company or affiliation, address, phone number and e-mail address with the subject title "Registration" to FAAC@dot.gov. The committee charter, minutes of meetings and related documents may be obtained on the Internet at www.regulations.gov, docket DOT-OST-2010-0074 or on the FAAC website at www.dot.gov/faac.

In 2009, passengers rated San Diego International Airport 88% in overall passenger satisfaction, the highest in six years of surveying.

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