

Vero Beach airport on track to add parking, improved terminal facilities in time for season.



Vero Beach Regional Airport is getting a series of upgrades, both inside and outside, aimed at making travel just a "tad more comfortable," Airport Director Todd Scher said Tuesday. The \$5 million in work stems from the success of Breeze Airways, the airport's passenger airline.

Breeze carried 170,000 passengers on 1,800 flights among its eight Vero Beach destinations in 2024. Passenger service in 2024 was 65% greater than 2023's high-water mark of 103,000, according to Breeze spokesman Ryne Williams.

"This is all part of the growing pains of an airport shifting to having commercial service from general aviation," explained Airport Director Todd Scher. "Airport staff is seeing a higher demand for parking spaces and updated facilities as Breeze has become increasingly popular.

"We want to get these projects completed in time for the next snowbird season."

Better facilities and more parking

The Federal Aviation Administration and Florida Department of Transportation have allocated \$1.8 million and \$1.5 million, respectively, for terminal improvements.

They include covered walkways to the aircraft; a covered — albeit still outside — baggage-claim area; reconfigured turn lanes in the parking lots; all-LED lighting both inside and outside the terminal; and improved ADA-accessible bathrooms near the exit that are easier to find, according to Scher.

"The new bathrooms will probably be the most apparent change," said Scher. "People exiting the airplane won't have to look as hard when they're in a hurry."

Groundbreaking on the terminal improvements is expected in March, and they're expected to be completed in late September or early October.