

Airport Governance Transfer

The Baton Rouge Metropolitan Council on October 9, 2024, adopted and approved the recommendation to transition the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport (BTR) to a new form of airport governance under a special-purpose airport authority model. This action followed a yearlong study to review and evaluate the current model, the operation and management of the airport compared to alternative models, and garnering stakeholder input on the airport's governance. Today, the City-Parish and the airport's management are working with the project team to actively create and stand-up the new airport authority model. The information below highlights key information regarding the change along with the benefits of the new model.

Transfer Process



Current Governance

Enabling Act

Louisiana Act No. 151 of 1969

City - Parish 12 members

The Metropolitan Council serves as the members of the current authority. The Mayor of Baton Rouge serves as the President.

Sets policy and approves capital expenses

Commission 13 members

9 members are appointed by the Metro Council. 4 are by virtue of their office including: 2 State Representatives & 2 State Senators.

Oversees airport operations and makes recommendations to Metro Council.

Authority Governance

City - Parish 12 members

The Metropolitan Council creates authority under state law and appoint 5-9 members of the authority board.

Receives annual report from authority, may provide support at the request of the authority board.

Authority 11-13 members

Directly oversees the operation and management of the airport, plans for capital improvements, employs airport personnel, and is the federal sponsor for airport grants and obligations.

Creates policy, establishes strategic initiatives, sets airport budget.

Authority Benefits

- Singular Airport Enterprise Focus
- Greater Ability to Achieve Business Goals
- Bolsters Regional Coordination & Economic Contribution
- Creates Stronger Platform for Economic Development
- Enhances Operational Efficiencies
- Upholding Leadership Standards, Checks & Balances

Airport Info

- 58 Full-Time Employees
 - Managed by City-Parish employees, led by the Executive Director who oversees 5 departments.
- 844,025 Passengers in 2024
 - Airlines flying passengers to 5 destinations on 3 individual air carriers.
- \$15,650,370 Revenue in 2024
 - The airport operates through an enterprise fund separate from the general fund of the City-Parish and generates its own revenues.
- Revenue generated at the airport through a mix of aeronautical/non-aeronautical activities such as parking, aircraft landing fees, fuel flowage, concessions, and land leases.
- \$104,464,366 in Planned Capital Improvements (24-27)
 - Airfield Lighting Rehabilitation, General Aviation Development, Airfield Drainage Improvement, etc.

National Airport Trends

- US commercial service airports are increasingly adopting special-purpose models, particularly airport authorities.
- Most airports transitioning from general-purpose municipal models to special-purpose models.
- No commercial service airports in the past 30 years have transitioned back to general-purpose municipal models.

Learn More



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