

# Envisioning the Future Needs of Long Island Aviation

**Republic Airport** remains one of the critical links in Long Island's transportation network. As the region changes, faces new challenges, and encounters the evolving needs of the 21st Century, how can Republic Airport continue its general aviation leadership?

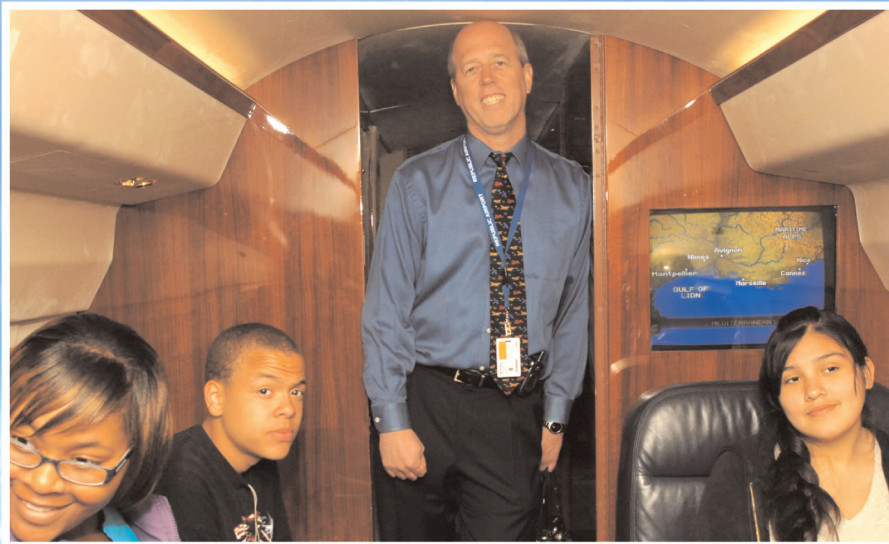
**It's not an easy answer because no plan ever survives its first encounter with reality.**

Nevertheless, an assessment and evaluation of the present and future needs for Republic to continue its role as a general aviation airport will benefit the regional economy as well as build a strong and trusted relationship between the surrounding towns, their residents and the aviation community.

With a consensus on the issue among elected officials from throughout the area and the New York State Department of Transportation, Republic Airport has embarked on the creation of a "Vision Plan" that will accomplish these strategic goals.

Similar to the Vision Plans of local municipalities and airports in other areas of the country, the success of this effort will depend on meaningful input and dialogue from Republic's various stakeholders.

This effort will define: (1) the future role of the Airport; (2) how the Airport seeks to fulfill that role; and (3) how the airport can work with the community to obtain necessary operational and economic results while working to minimize impacts.



*Republic Director Michael Geiger provides local high school students with a firsthand view of potential aviation careers during their recent tour of the airport.*

Against this backdrop, the airport will continue public safety projects in order to improve the safe operational environment for the recreational and business aviation community and honor its obligations and legal agreements to tenants and the Federal Aviation Administration.

## **A challenge to the consulting community**

The airport's Request for Proposal (RFP) challenges the consulting community to create a Vision structure that allows for maximum dialogue among many different



audiences including appropriate federal, state, county, town and village officials, the Republic Airport Commission, aviation organizations, civic organizations, and citizens located in the area surrounding the airport.

During the Fall of last year the airport's Working Group Committee, comprised of members of the community, met to discuss what could be incorporated into the Visioning Process and Request for Proposal document. In the new year, the airport asked for responses to a formal RFP, and DY Consulting, of Roslyn, NY, has been selected to prepare this comprehensive document. As part of our public information program, the airport will continue to keep all its stakeholders current on the status of this effort throughout the remainder of this year.

#### **Connecting with the community**

---

Whether it is meeting survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack or shaking the hands of members of the Farmingdale Women's Club, Republic Airport officials are engaged in greeting airport neighbors throughout the year.

Most recently, Republic Airport Manager Shelley LaRose-Arken and Airport Director Michael Geiger were invited to discuss the role of the airport by Farmingdale Women's Club President Dolores Cianciabella and Republic Airport Commissioner Joan Flaumenbaum. At the meeting, a presentation was given on upcoming projects that enhance the airport's role, including: vision planning, a taxiway relocation and safety project, and proposed or future hangar developments.

#### **The airport's economic synergy – hotel ribbon cutting**

---

Town Place Suites opened this spring, marking the second of two hotels on Republic Airport property, and with it the strengthening of economic synergy between the airport and surrounding complimentary uses. Together, the neighboring Courtyard Marriott, which opened in 2006, and its extended stay product, have 250 rooms.

The construction of the two hotels, worth \$32 million, is also providing new tax revenue for the Town of Babylon. Over a fifteen-year period, the additional tax revenue received will be in excess of \$13.9 million dollars. This additional tax revenue will provide \$8.4 million for school taxes, \$680,000 for the fire department, and \$340,000 for local libraries.

Built by Long Island Hotels, LLC, and with the support of Babylon Town Supervisor Steve Bellone, the Babylon Town Board and the Babylon Town Industrial Development Agency, these two facilities are key anchors in the town's strategic economic development and revitalization plans for the Route 110 corridor.