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TWEED NEW HAVEN ANNOUNCES “MAJOR AGREEMENT” WITH EXISTING LOCAL OPERATOR, ADDS NEW AIRLINE

*Project will result in new terminal, greater convenience, and
more direct flights to more destinations*

New Haven, Conn. – Officials from Tweed New Haven Airport (HVN) and current airport operator Avports LLC today announced what they called a “major agreement” to move the airport forward to the benefit of flyers, taxpayers, and the local economy. When completed, the more than \$100 million project will result in the creation of thousands of local jobs and eliminate the need for existing state and city subsidies, which currently total \$1.8 million per year.

Under the agreement, Avports will aim to construct a new, carbon neutral-terminal at HVN at no cost to local taxpayers, and also lengthen the existing runway to allow for more direct flights to more destinations. Avports, a well-known national airport operations and management company, has been the trusted local operator of HVN for more than 20 years. These activities are in furtherance of the Airport’s official Master Plan document, which was recently updated after a months-long process that included extensive public input. The agreement requires additional approvals from the Federal Aviation Administration as well as the New Haven Board of Alders, who HVN and Avports leadership pledged to work closely with in the coming weeks.

[Key elements of the agreement can be found in the summary document here.](#)

Tweed New Haven Airport also announced that Avelo Airlines -- America's first new mainline airline in nearly 15 years -- will make HVN its first East Coast base, making a \$60 million investment in the community, including stationing three 737-700 Next Gen aircraft there by year end and adding over 100 Crewmembers, including pilots, flight attendants, technicians and customer support personnel. Starting in the 3rd quarter, Avelo will begin operations at Tweed with nonstop scheduled service to several popular destinations. Avelo's investment in the community includes \$1.2 million to help fund improvements at HVN's existing west terminal which will enable it to offer a convenient and comfortable experience to its Customers.

Both agreements will be announced at a 10:30 AM press conference this morning at Tweed New Haven Airport. Tweed New Haven Airport Authority (TNHAA) representatives, Avports CEO Jorge Roberts, Avelo Airlines CEO Andrew Levy, local elected officials, community and labor leaders, and Gov. Ned Lamont are all expected to attend the event.

"For years people have talked about improving this airport to meet the needs of this region and now it's finally coming to fruition," said **Sean Scanlon, Director of the Tweed Airport Authority**. "This historic and exciting project is about more than just offering much-desired new flights and expanded service. This project is about generating significant economic activity in greater New Haven, creating thousands of good-paying local jobs and building one of the country's first truly sustainable airports."

"We are extremely excited to grow our existing, long-term partnership with Tweed as they take this significant step," said **Jorge Roberts, CEO of Avports**. "As the current operator of nine airports and passenger terminals nationwide, Avports will bring to the table national best practices and designs that will make this project a success, starting with the construction of a modern, environmentally friendly terminal. We've been especially impressed with how diligently Tweed officials have listened to the concerns of local elected officials and community leaders, and addressed them, in order to get their buy-in. Together, we are making a long-term partnership with those leaders and to the local residents this airport serves."

"Avelo is thrilled to make Tweed New Haven our first East Coast base and bring a new era of choice, convenience and everyday low fares to Southern Connecticut," said **Avelo Airlines CEO Andrew Levy**. "Avelo's purpose is to Inspire Travel by making it easier and more affordable for our Customers to reconnect with family, celebrate with friends and explore new places. Our substantial investment in HVN reflects our conviction about the huge opportunity we see in the

market to offer Customers our brand of convenient, everyday low fares delivered by Crewmembers with a Soul of Service. We look forward to hiring many new locally based Avelo Crewmembers and becoming a part of the community.”

“This is an exciting day for New Haven, as we are now finally able to accomplish something that has alluded our City and its neighbors for too many years,” said **New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker**. “After months of listening to residents and conversations with the Airport Authority and Avports, the City has negotiated a strong proposal that addresses neighborhood concerns and ends the City’s decades of financial subsidies to the airport. The path forward will allow for air travel that is more accessible and affordable for residents and significant community benefits to the neighborhood and city.”

According to **East Haven Mayor Joseph Carfora**, “it was clear early in my administration that the courts had spoken with finality about the lengthening of the runway, and this expansion- it was going to happen. As a result, I was direct, and crystal clear that East Haven needed to be treated fairly, and that any expansion needed to protect and benefit East Haven taxpayers as well as East Haven businesses. I am confident that this plan provides East Haven with protections, a sense of certainty, and that it will benefit our community in a way that previous iterations would not have.”

“I think too often when this idea was discussed in the past, East Haven was an afterthought, but not anymore,” added Carfora. “Our town ensured that we were partners in this effort, and that the concerns of our community were not just heard, but addressed. This agreement represents the opportunity for more jobs and more economic activity for the Town of East Haven, its residents, and its businesses -- this will be a fair partnership from this point forward. I look forward to working with the airport, with Avports, and with our partners in New Haven as it progresses forward.”

"This is a great day for this region and the Building Trades here in Connecticut," said **Andrew Inorio, President of the Laborers Local Union 455**. “This announcement marks a critical milestone for the community as this project will result in jobs for our members at a time when we are recovering from a historic economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful to Avports and the Airport Authority for agreeing to do a project labor agreement at Tweed Airport. We look forward to a solid partnership that will not only strengthen our

transportation system, but also create good-paying jobs for our members that will keep our tax dollars flowing into the local economy".

The agreement will include a number of protections to ensure that Avports operates the Airport as a good neighbor. In addition to abiding by local noise ordinances, Avports will implement requirements from an updated noise study within 5 years of FAA approval, and will invest up to \$1.75 million in additional noise mitigation programs. Avports will also fund environmental and traffic mitigation, with total community investments of approximately \$5 million.

"During the master plan process, we made listening to the concerns of the airport's neighbors our highest priority," added Scanlon. "As a result, the Authority and Avports have ensured that this agreement includes historic community benefits that address the largest concerns raised by the community."

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