

Tampa International Airport and Delta Air Lines to Develop New Facility

For immediate release

Tampa, Fla. (March 2, 2000) - - As part of its ongoing program to improve the level of service to the users of the Tampa International Airport, the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority will construct a new Airside E and Delta Air Lines will be the primary tenant of the 14-Gate facility.

At its Authority Meeting on March 2, 2000, the Board approved the Executive Director's recommendation to proceed with the final planning for the new airside. The Board approved a financing package to pay for a portion of the building and other improvements at the Tampa International Airport by continuing the existing \$3.00 Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) that was first imposed in 1994. As required by Federal Law, a formal application will be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration for their final approval.

Louis E. Miller, Executive Director, Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, described the new Airside as "A state-of-the-art two level facility with a mezzanine above the second level to provide space for Delta's Crowne Room.

The first level includes space for a commuter airline holdroom, airline ramp operations, outbound baggage systems, airline ramp operations and other airline space. The second level will contain the passenger holdrooms and other amenities including concessions, security screening, restrooms and access to the shuttle system to the Terminal Building."

In addition to Airside E, the PFC application includes funds to continue acquiring property in the Drew Park Area, acquisition of passenger loading bridges, miscellaneous airfield and taxiway improvements, and the complete renovation of the Ticketing Level of the Terminal Building.

The total cost of the projects contained in the PFC application is in excess of \$200 Million. PFC's are estimated to fund over \$161 Million and the remaining costs will be paid with Aviation Authority revenues, Federal Airport Improvement Programs Grants and Grants from the Florida Department of Transportation.

W. Crosby Few, Chairman, Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, stated, "I am pleased the airlines serving the Tampa International Airport supported the Authority's efforts to upgrade the 28-year-old terminal facilities and provide the passengers in the Tampa Bay Area with World Class Facilities."

###