

Tampa Wins Bid to Host Airports Council International-North America Annual Conference 2003

For immediate release

Tampa, Fla. (October 4, 2000) - - The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority (HCAA) together with the Tampa/Hillsborough Convention and Visitors Association, Inc. (THCVA) are pleased to announce that Tampa has been selected to host the Airports Council International - North America (ACI-NA) annual conference September 7 - 14, 2003.

Tampa was selected over multiple cities across the nation bidding for ACI's attention. The Conference is expected to have a \$2.1 million economic impact based on 2200 delegates staying for four days. New York City was the conference host this week with Montreal in 2001 and Salt Lake City in 2002.

ACI-NA's member airports handle over 95 percent of the domestic - and virtually all of the international - air passenger and cargo traffic in North America.

According to Louis E. Miller, Executive Director, HCAA, and 1994 ACI Chairman, "Over the years, board members, the staff, and myself, have been very actively involved in various ACI committees and activities. We have successfully hosted many committee meetings, including the Executive Board Meetings, the ACI Economic Specialty Conference in April 1999, ACI's Commissioners Roundtable in June 2000 and we are excited and ready to show off the Tampa Bay community."

ACI-NA, headquartered in Washington, D.C. is the "Voice of Airports" for North America, and the largest region of the worldwide Airports Council International. The membership consists of approximately 150 governing bodies who are primarily state, regional and local entities that own and operate airports. Also, membership includes more than 325 businesses providing the services, products and concepts airports rely on.

The four Tampa hotels preparing to welcome the 2000 conference attendees are the Hyatt Regency, Radisson Riverwalk, Tampa Marriott Waterside and the Wyndham Harbor Island, collectively booking over 1300 rooms.

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