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NEWS RELEASE

Media Advisory **Runway Closure for 25 days** **Airport Neighbors will be impacted by change in air carrier traffic**

WHO: The Aviation Authority has implemented a \$13.4 million construction project on Tampa International Airport's busiest runway that will impact our Airport neighbors requiring temporary changes to the Informal Runway Use Program. Runway 18 Right/36 Left is situated north of Old Tampa Bay where over water aircraft approaches and departures help to minimize the impact of noise on residential areas south of the Airport.

WHAT: The Aviation Authority is constructing a high-speed taxiway and making necessary taxiway improvements near the south end of Runway 18 Right. This taxiway, which is parallel to the runway, is called Taxiway "W."

WHEN: Starting Monday, April 24 through Thursday, May 18th Runway 18 Right/36 Left will be closed 24 hours per day for 25 days to complete the project.

WHY: Development of the high-speed exit was prompted by the Federal Aviation Administration's Capacity Enhancement Plan, Airport Operations and local FAA Air Traffic Control Tower personnel. Using the current taxiway, a significant percentage of aircraft landing on Runway 18 Right are not able to make this exit. In order to decrease aircraft occupancy time on the runway, new high-speed Taxiway W-3 will be constructed. Additionally, the new taxiway will allow landing aircraft to exit the runway more quickly, thereby allowing more aircraft to land on 18 Right. As a result, fewer aircraft will need, or want, to land on Runway 18 Left (parallel runway to 18 Right) keeping departing aircraft over the water and reducing noise impacts even more in the future. When this project is complete, we will be able to utilize Runway 18 Right more frequently, offering a significant benefit to our neighbors to the south of the Airport.

IMPACT: The runway closure means that the remaining parallel north/south Runway 18 Left/36 Right, will be carrying the majority of the Airport's takeoffs and landings for 25 days. Persons in the areas north and south of the Airport will notice this change in aircraft traffic.

COMMITMENT: The Aviation Authority is concerned for the well-being of its neighbors and regrets any inconvenience that the runway/taxiway construction may cause. In order to minimize this runway closure, the Aviation Authority has offered the contractors an incentive bonus of \$10,000 per day for early completion. The community may call 813/870-8752 for questions/concerns or contact us through our website at www.tampaairport.com.

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