



**Let's Talk Facts –
An Update on Boca Raton Airport's Proposed Customs Facility
October 14, 2014**

Being a good neighbor is important to us, and a factor in every decision we make. In planning for a proposed Customs facility, there's been extensive research and due diligence to gauge both the benefits and impacts. This update shares the latest data and context to address neighbors' concerns.

Why Add Customs?

Adding a Customs facility to serve the small, private and corporate-use aircraft already using Boca Raton Airport is an all-round "win" for the community.

- It will make our airspace safer and more efficient, improve convenience for airport users who now have to make an interim stop to clear Customs elsewhere, and boost economic development benefits to the area.
- It's far safer and quieter – eliminating low-altitude flights by planes making the short hop after that by allowing direct arrivals at higher altitudes.
- Customs also brings enhanced security and law enforcement presence.

Re: specific concerns: Here are the facts:

Boca Raton Airport's character, type and size of aircraft we service, won't change.

- The 212-acre airport is built out, bounded by I-95 and FAU.
- Based on constraints including lack of land, hangar space at capacity and limited funding, there is no opportunity for new buildings, or to extend or add runways.
- This will never be Boca International, have commercial airlines or freight carriers.

Customs isn't a draw – it's an amenity, serving aircraft already coming here, and eliminating interim stops to clear customs elsewhere.

- The Customs feasibility study and the experience of similar airports in Naples and St. Augustine show that's the case.
- Fewer low altitude flights into Boca by aircraft first clearing customs at PBI or FLL means safer air space and quieter flights over the Boca Raton area.
- Customs hours (Thurs-Mon; 10:30 am-6 pm) encourage daytime arrivals.

Noise levels are down, and we're working on all fronts for continued improvement.

- Noise monitoring and flight tracking have produced real progress and continue.
- Stage 2 – the noisier aircraft – are phasing out.
- Working proactively with pilots to reinforce compliance with voluntary curfews
- Tower is fanning out flights so no one area is unduly impacted.

To address neighbors' concerns that deposits on nearby roofs were aircraft-related, BRAA did the due diligence to get the facts. Lab tests definitively ruled out jet fuel.

- Only certain large jets are designed to be able to dump fuel in emergencies. Our runway is far too short for those jets. The smaller aircraft that do use our airport lack the physical ability to eliminate fuel while in the air, even in an emergency.
- Still, BRAA engaged an independent consultant to test rooftop samples from nearby homes chosen by the Via Verde Master Association.
- Lab analysis compared the samples with jet fuel's distinct chemical "signature" -- found no presence. (See below)
- The lab analysis *did* show four types of naturally occurring mold common in South Florida's climate when vegetative waste accumulates and degrades.
- Results are consistent with Florida Department of Health's findings in similar studies.

