“New Beginnings, Greater New Orleans”

By Patricia Malone, Interim Director of Aviation

Last month was a month to remember. In addition to the annual Mardi Gras celebration, our beloved New Orleans Saints football team won the Super Bowl, bringing attention to New Orleans and our region for all the right reasons.

Last month was a month to remember. In addition to the annual Mardi Gras celebration, our beloved New Orleans Saints football team won the Super Bowl, bringing attention to New Orleans and our region for all the right reasons.

Armstrong International Airport has developed a new theme for the year that we feel is fitting considering the celebratory atmosphere that abounds in our area. “New Beginnings, Greater New Orleans” is the message. The Gulf South and Armstrong International Airport have been on the road to recovery for a number of years now. We feel New Orleans has finally reached a significant turning point and the Saints Super Bowl victory is the exclamation point on this fact. The world now knows New Orleans is back! Is there still work to be done? Yes. However, we as a city, a region and an airport have come a long way since August 2005. Looking to the future, we have a year ahead of us with new beginnings in a host of areas. New metro area governance will be in place and with it will come more ideas for continued recovery. The New Orleans Aviation Board and staff extend congratulations to the new leadership and look forward to working with them to promote the great things about our region. Using the Saints as an example, we as a region are winners and it is time to show it. Soon to be visible to our traveling public will be the new changes at the airport. As I have shared with you for a number of months, Armstrong International Airport is well underway with a $357 million dollar capital improvement program. Much of the work to date has been behind the scenes with projects such as a new security system, firehouse and apron rehabilitation.

Though the work may not have high visibility, the impact on the public has been. The work to date has provided hundreds of jobs and put millions of dollars into the local economy. By the time the work is finished, thousands will have been employed and a number of communities will have benefited financially from the economic impact.

This year extensive renovations will be underway inside of the terminal. Though care will be taken to minimize inconvenience to passengers, there will be some changes in the location of ticket counters and some movement of flights to other concourses. Be sure to allow a few extra minutes and check your boarding pass to see which concourse you’ll be departing from because it may be different than the last time you flew. As we continue on our path of restoration, we want to say a big thanks to our New Orleans Saints. You have given us not only a great deal to cheer about but an example of how to be a winner despite adversity. To put it simply – Who Dat!