

*From the Ground Up:*  
**An Airport Update for the RRTPO's  
Community Transportation  
Advisory Committee (CTAC)**

Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
Thursday, May 20, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

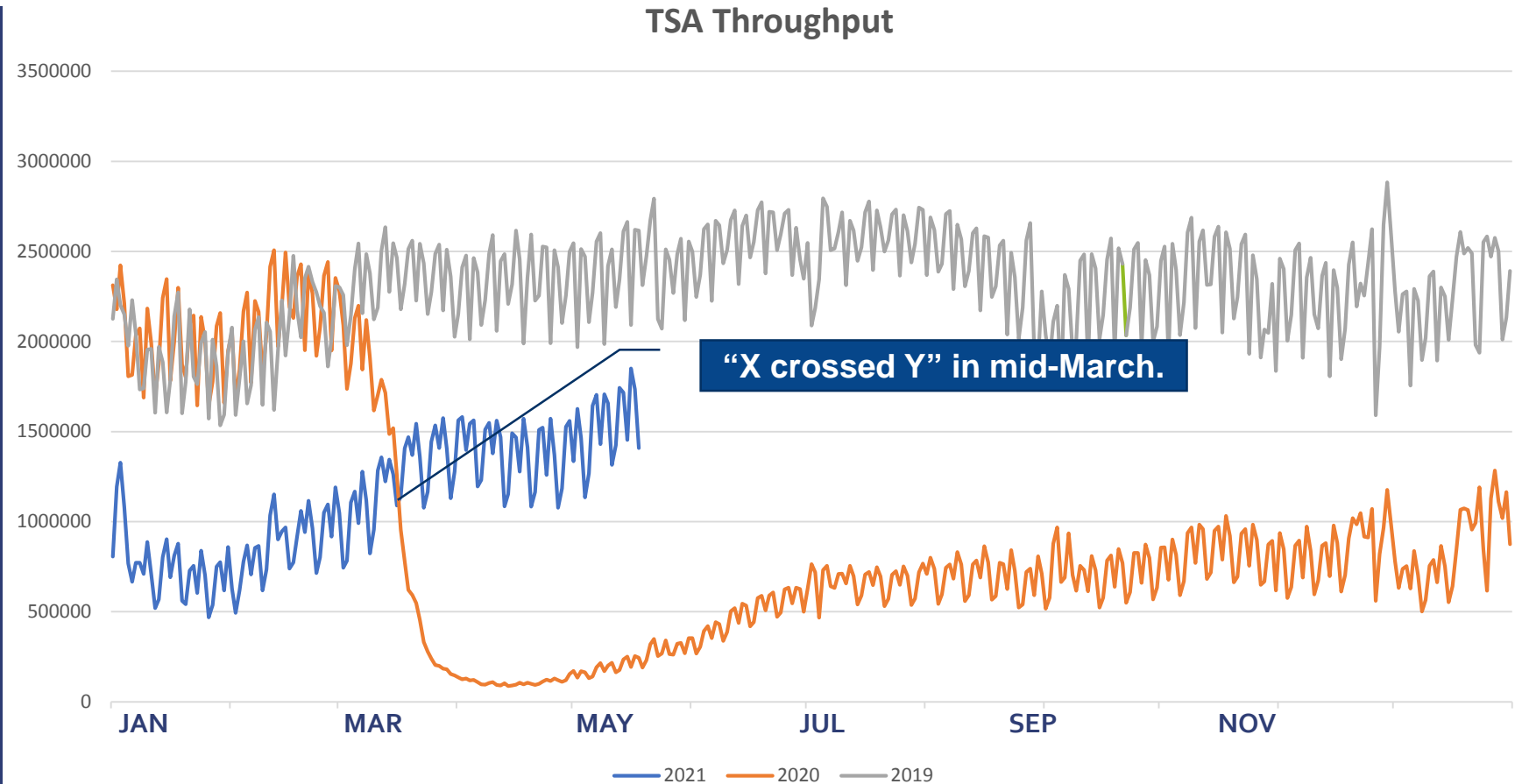


# Richmond International Airport (RIC), Richmond, Virginia, USA



- Richmond International Airport (RIC) is owned and operated by the Capital Region Airport Commission, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth whose 14 members are appointed by four Richmond Region jurisdictions.
- RIC is a small hub that reported a record 4.4 million passengers in 2019.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, which first impacted domestic air travel in March 2020, passenger traffic has been severely affected while cargo volume has significantly increased.

# Passenger Traffic (U.S. & RIC) during the COVID-19 Pandemic



- Through ten months of FY21, passenger traffic at RIC is down 61.1% versus pre-pandemic FY19. Operating revenue has been similarly affected.
- 14 months into the pandemic, April 2021 was the first month to recover at least half of its pre-COVID-19 passenger traffic, reporting 56.3% of April 2019’s total.

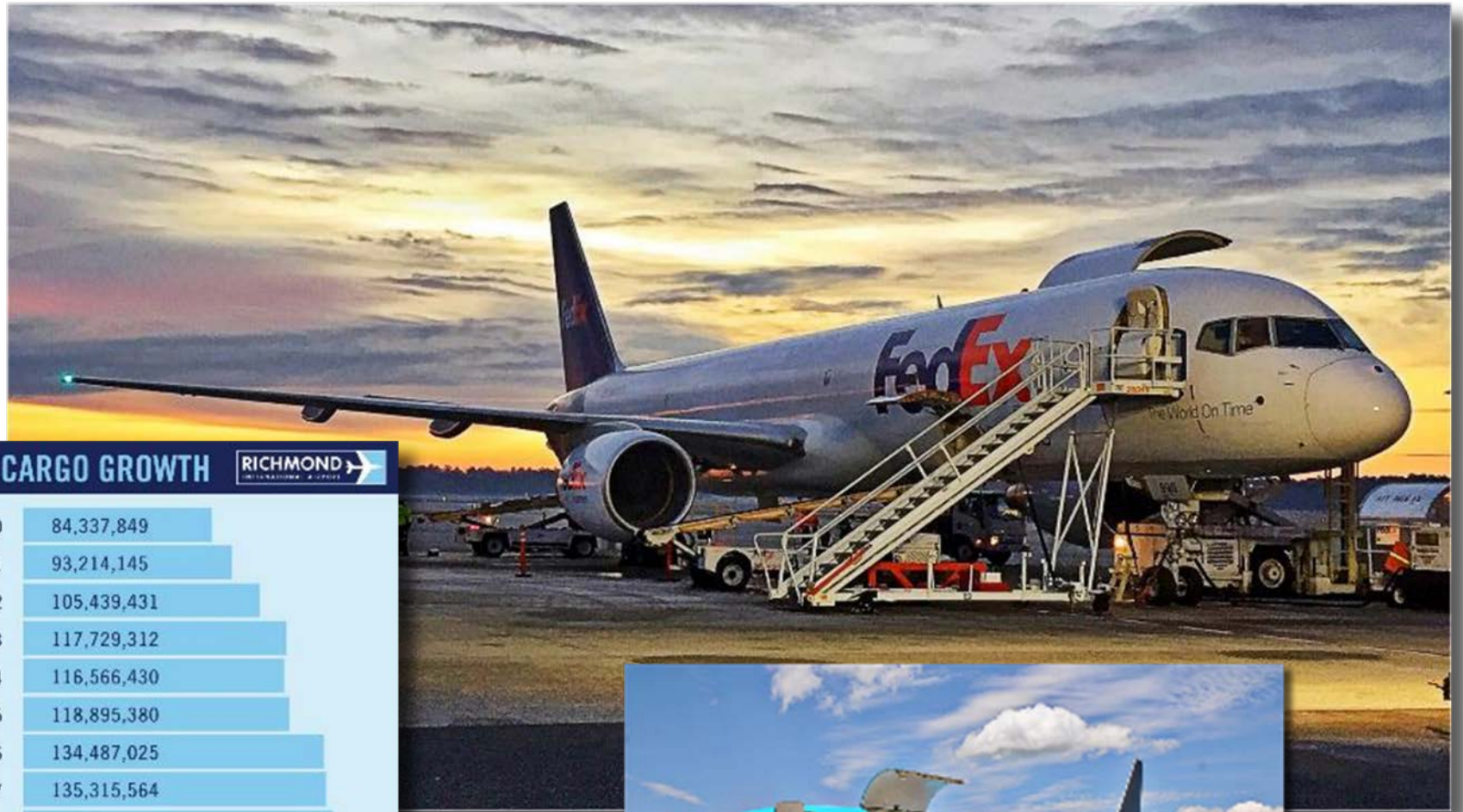
New Routes  
Launched during  
the Pandemic  
include RIC to:

Los Angeles, Las  
Vegas, Tampa,  
Chicago Midway,  
and Denver.





# Cargo Volume “Takes Off” with the Rise of E- Commerce



## How has RIC coordinated its plans and initiatives with PlanRVA over the years?

- A good example is the development of compressed natural gas (CNG) capabilities at the airport benefitting from CMAQ funds.
- As a result, RIC's parking shuttle fleet is 100% powered by CNG and has logged over 1.5 million miles serving the public at the airport.
- Benefits include:
  - Reduced tailpipe emissions.
  - Quieter operations.
  - Lower maintenance costs.
  - Lower energy costs.
- Another example is the airport's Master Plan, which reflects a future location for light rail from downtown.



## What have been the trends (growth) in passenger traffic? How has this been manifested in improvements?

- Passenger traffic, from 2009 to 2019, increased by 1.1 million passengers to to 4.4 million passengers.
- RIC had made substantial landside improvements prior to the Great Recession such as garage construction, the reconstruction of the terminal access loop to provide separated Arrivals and Departures levels, and the reconstruction of Airport Drive.
- Later improvements included:
  - Expansion of public parking facilities (North Garage and Economy expansion).
  - The first cell phone waiting lot; a second one is under design.
  - Expansion of access to the commercial lane.
  - A dedicated staging area for transportation network company (TNC) operations.
  - Construction of an east side access road to support future development.
- Substantial airside improvements are still in progress.





# How is the Airport addressing environmental issues associated with ground transportation?

To date, the conversion from diesel shuttles to a 100% CNG-powered fleet has been the ground transportation initiative with the greatest impact.

Additionally, RIC is working with another local party to bring substantial electric vehicle (EV) recharging capabilities to public parking areas at the airport.

Aside from CNG-powered buses operated by GRTC, we have seen no other sustained commercial or public efforts to switch to alternative fuels.

Some airlines have been transitioning to electric ground support equipment.

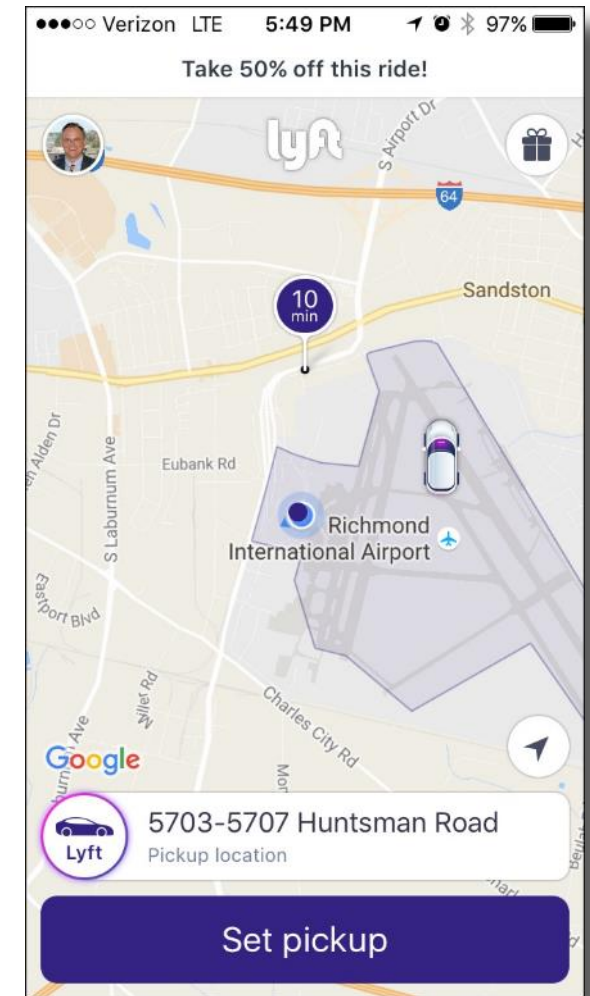
Thanks to a nudge from the UCI 2015 world championship races, RIC has been a certified Virginia Green Tourism Partner since 2015.





# How is the Airport using or planning to use technology to enhance travel to/from the facility?

- Technology has played a role in on-airport parking operations for years.
- RIC's parking and revenue control systems currently offer capabilities including:
  - Inventory management.
  - Location services.
  - Low touch or touch-free payment options such as NFC credit cards, Apple Pay, and Google Pay.
  - Several future enhancements under consideration.
- App-based transportation network companies (TNC) like Lyft and Uber have been permitted to operate at RIC since August 2013.
  - Over 650,000 pick ups since 2013.
  - Finalizing new operating agreements with TNC operators.



As we have all been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, what steps has the Airport taken to control the spread of infectious diseases?

- RIC has met or exceeded CDC guidelines, as well as other federal and state requirements, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Richmond International Airport was accredited as a Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) STAR Facility as of February 1, 2021, one of first 30 airports in the U.S. and first in Virginia to be recognized.
- Due to strict compliance with infectious disease prevention protocols – actively managed by the Airport Commission – the infection rate among the Airport's 2,400+ badge holders has been significantly lower than the general population in Virginia, even though RIC operates 24/7/365 as an essential business and by its nature accommodates large-scale public access.



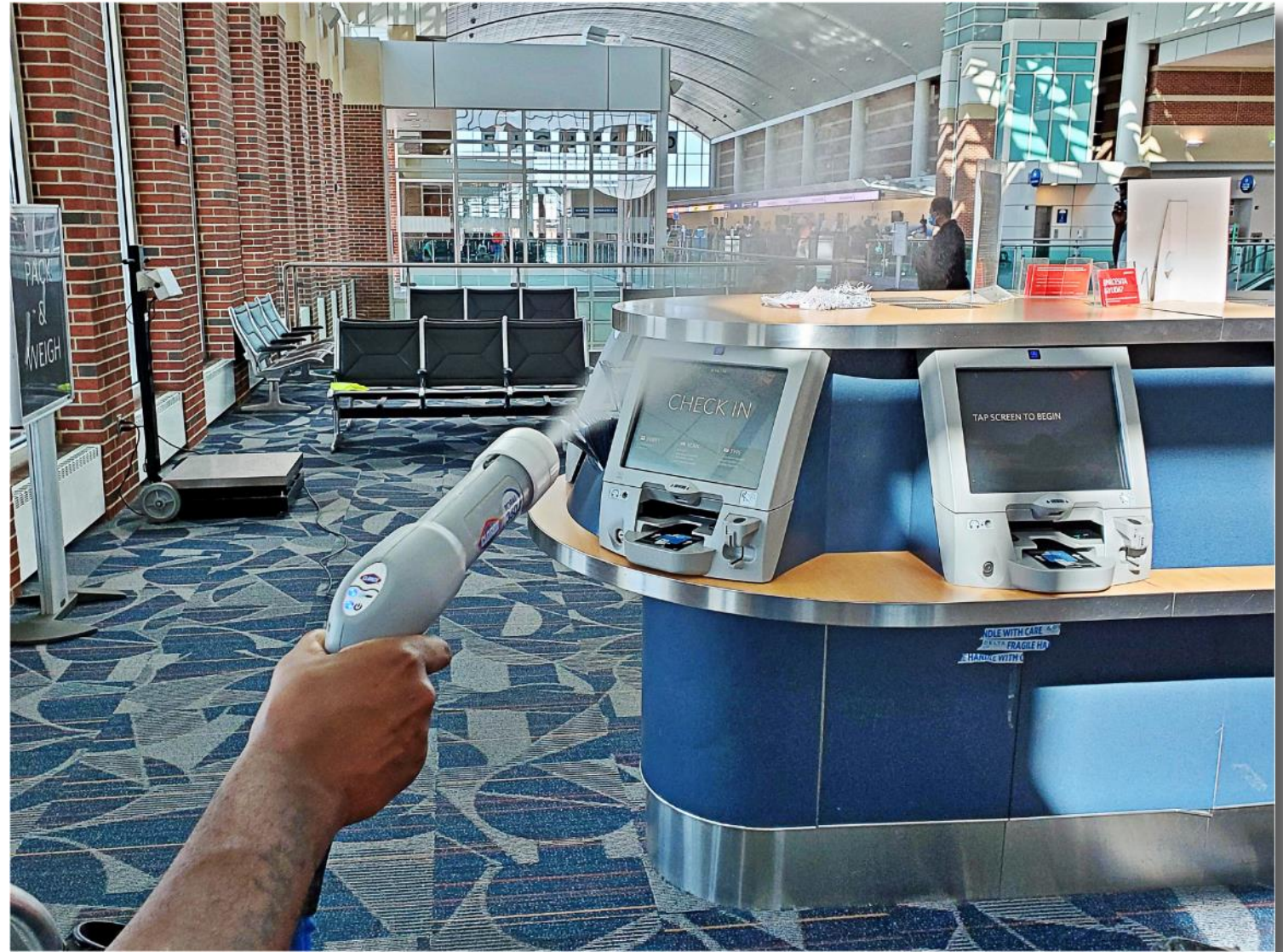


# High-Touch Surfaces Receive More Frequent Cleaning & Disinfecting





# RIC Rapidly Deployed the Clorox Total 360® Electrostatic Cleaning and Disinfecting Program to Treat Large Public Spaces





# Final Comments



Contacts: John Rutledge, [jrutledge@flyrichmond.com](mailto:jrutledge@flyrichmond.com), or Troy Bell, [tbell@flyrichmond.com](mailto:tbell@flyrichmond.com).