



# HELP SAVE HARTFORD-BRAINARD AIRPORT

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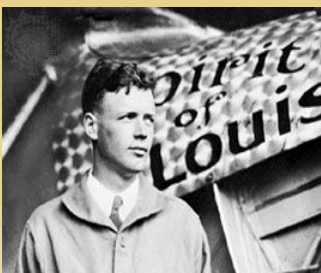
Page 1

February 22, 2022



In October, the Hartford City Council created a commission to close Brainard Airport, and redevelop the South Meadow “with anticipated increase to the city’s grand list and creating job opportunities for residents.”

**HBAA** believes that this controversial venture is speculative and highly unlikely to succeed.



## Hartford-Brainard Airport Delivers Strong Financial Benefits to the Region

### Significant positive economic impact to state and local economy:

- Hartford-Brainard Airport supports more than 400 jobs and \$54.8 million of direct economic output, including \$17.1 million of labor income and \$3.4 million in state and local tax revenues.
- The Airport keeps aviation dollars in state. Hartford-Brainard Airport is an economic asset that supports small businesses and workers in the City of Hartford, the Hartford metropolitan area, and the State of Connecticut.
- No Connecticut state tax dollars are spent supporting Brainard operations. Operational ownership lies with the Connecticut Airport Authority, which is completely self-funded.

### Brainard supports aerospace and aviation workforce training:

- Brainard is the 3rd busiest airport in the state. If Brainard closes, aircraft operations could create extensive delays at Bradley.
- 3 Busy Flight Schools (training pilots to fill a nationwide industry shortage).
- CT Aero Tech School (training mechanic and avionic technicians (a pipeline filling another critical industry shortage).

### Brainard contributes to public health, life safety and defense:

- Hartford Brainard Airport’s central location and proximity to nearby hospitals helps responders (including State Police, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Life Star, and Civil Air Patrol) provide fast and convenient service.
- Brainard hosts numerous government and health transport-related options that benefit from its central location. These location features help them quickly reach people in an emergency.
- Brainard provides life-saving support to Hartford Hospital through transportation of organ and tissue donations flown to Brainard for use in transplantation. Alternative ground transportation from Bradley Airport to the hospital is inefficient, time-consuming and puts the success of organ transplants in jeopardy.

*“There should be no move to close [Brainard Airport] until all aspects of potential redevelopment are aired, including a timeline, costs and what it would take to make that site an appropriate one for housing and more. And those who support keeping the airport open also need to have their voices heard. Planes have been flying in and out of Brainard for 101 years. They should not be grounded without a very good reason.”*

Hartford Courant Editorial  
February 6, 2022



**President Joe Biden is greeted upon arrival aboard Marine One at Brainard Airport in Hartford on Oct. 15, 2021.**

## Significant Costs of Closure and Redevelopment:

A 2016 study by the legislature’s Program Review and Investigations Committee found that:

- The overall benefits of the Airport to the economy far outweigh its costs, especially because the Airport is used by a few large and significant Hartford employers, including insurance companies, and is federally subsidized.
- Closing the airport would be “extremely difficult”, and redevelopment of the site would be highly complex, time-consuming, and expensive – with a very uncertain outcome.
- Airport closure, environmental remediation, and infrastructure construction would require significant public funds, and probably take 10 to 20 years to complete.
- Mixed use redevelopment does not appear feasible due to the site’s location.



**Hartford Brainard  
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