Presentation to:
FAA Forecast Conference
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## Effect of Delay on Mode Choice

- Airport delays and congestion have increased
$\square$ Well documented
$\square$ Have many causes
- Delay and congestion reduce short-haul demand
$\square$ Short-haul market case study
$\square$ Generalization to NY market
- Economics of short-haul travel
$\square$ Trip costs by modes
$\square$ Time savings
- Opportunities for the future


## Example Short-Haul Flight: PIT/EWR



## Block time has steadily increased while airborne time has not

| Aircraft Trip Time | 1999 | 2005 | 2007 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Scheduled Time | 83 | 89 | 101 | minutes |
| Actual Time | 89 | 95 | 99 | minutes |
| Actual Airborne Time | 59 | 58 | 57 | minutes |
| Actual Ground Time | 30 | 37 | 42 | minutes |
| Percent on-time | 69\% | 66\% | 69\% |  |
| Percent cancelled | 5\% | 6\% | 5\% |  |

PIT Air travel time is more variable EWR 2000: Scheduled for 74-91 Minutes 2007: Scheduled for 87-125 Minutes

## Air Travel is Not Just the Flight



## Economy Drives Mode Choice

|  | 2000 |  | 2005 |  | 2007 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cost to Drive | \$ | 102 | \$ | 123 | \$ | 158 |
| Average One-Way Fare Paid | \$ | 216 | \$ | 211 | \$ | 117 |
| Net Cost of Flight | \$ | 114 | \$ | 88 | \$ | (41) |
| Hourly Cost of Time Saved | \$ | 54 | \$ | 59 | \$ | (29) |
| 3rd Quarter Passengers Carried |  | 48,320 |  | 42,420 |  | 46,340 |

PIT 2000: Passenger Paid $\$ 54$ per Hour Saved EWR 2005: Passenger Paid $\$ 59$ per Hour Saved 2007: Fares Fell: Flying Became Cheaper

# 2000: Driving Competed Favorably on Trips up to 750 Miles 

 2000 Travel Cost SavingsIncluding Passenger Time


Passenger Time Valued at NY/NJ Minimum Wage of $\$ 7.15$ per Hour

2007: Declining Fares Have Improved Economics of Flying 500-1,000 miles

## 2007 Travel Cost Savings I ncluding Passenger Time



Passenger Time Valued at NY/NJ Minimum Wage of $\$ 7.15$ per Hour

## Short Flights Have Lost More Than Half Their Value - Traffic Declined

|  | 250 Mile Trip |  |  | Hours |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 2000 | 2007 |  |
| Driving Time |  | 4.2 | 4.2 |  |
| Flying Time |  | 2.9 | 3.6 | Hours |
| Time Saved |  | 1.3 | 0.6 | Hours |
| Average Air Fare | \$ | 127 | \$ 135 |  |
| Cost per Hour Saved | \$ | 98 | \$ 214 |  |
| 3rd Quarter Passengers |  | 1,427,840 | 936,700 | 34\% Decline |

- Passenger time in the airport and airfield congestion have reduced value of short-haul service
- Short-haul aircraft operating costs have increased
- Short-haul service levels have declined
- Airlines have shifted remaining service towards feeding connecting gateway hubs
- Weaker product

Airlines Have Improved Value of Medium-Haul Flights by Cutting Fares

|  | 500 Mile Trip |  |  |  | Hours |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 2000 |  | 2007 |  |
| Driving Time |  | 8.0 |  | 8.0 |  |
| Flying Time |  | 3.4 |  | 4.1 | Hours |
| Time Saved |  | 4.6 |  | 3.9 | Hours |
| Average Air Fare | \$ | 155 | \$ | 107 |  |
| Cost per Hour Saved | \$ | 34 | \$ | 27 |  |
| 3rd Quarter Passengers |  | 1,116,200 |  | 1,562,320 | 40\% Increase |

- Increases in passenger volume have not fully offset lost revenue
- Time will tell whether airlines can sustain this air service model


## Longer-Haul Air Travel Relatively Unaffected

|  | 1,000 Mile Trip |  |  | Hours |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 2000 | 2007 |  |
| Driving Time |  | 15.7 | 15.7 |  |
| Flying Time |  | 4.4 | 5.1 | Hours |
| Time Saved |  | 11.3 | 10.6 | Hours |
| Average Air Fare | \$ | 141 | \$ 135 |  |
| Cost per Hour Saved | \$ | 12 | \$ 13 |  |
| 3rd Quarter Passengers |  | 1,962,500 | 2,199,840 | 12\% Increase |

- Fares have declined slightly
- Flying still delivers strong travel value
- Passenger volumes increased in line with economic growth


## Very short-haul air travel remains down while all other travel increased



Longer-haul fares have increased Shorter-haul fares have continued declining

Percent Change in 3rd Quarter Fares (EWR+LGA+J FK)


## Total Revenue at 2000 levels Shorter-haul revenue still down

Change in 3rd Quarter Total Revenue


Flight Distance

## If we do nothing:

- Higher gasoline prices will move inter-city passengers from cars to bus, rail, and air
- Air will remain mode of choice for travel greater than 500 miles despite high levels of airport congestion and delay
- Air travel for destinations less than 250 miles will continue to decline
- Air travel for destinations from 250 to 500 miles will decline if travel times or fares increase


## Airlines have small market share of Northeast Corridor inter-city travel <br> Aviation Planning at the Leading Edge

| Mode | 2006 | 2007 | \% Chan |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Passengers |  |  |  |
| Acela Rail | 2,668,000 | 3,191,000 | 20\% |
| Regional Rail | 6,755,000 | 6,837,000 | 1\% |
| Air Travel | 1,690,000 | 1,649,000 | -2\% |

On-Time Performance

| Acela Rail | $85 \%$ | $88 \%$ | $4 \%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Regional Rail | $78 \%$ | $78 \%$ | $0 \%$ |
| Air Travel | $74 \%$ | $73 \%$ | $-1 \%$ |

Revenue per Passenger

| Acela Rail | $\$ 123$ | $\$ 126$ | $3 \%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Regional Rail | $\$ 59$ | $\$ 62$ | $6 \%$ |
| Air Travel | $\$ 114$ | $\$ 128$ | $12 \%$ |

## Lessons learned from the Northeast Corridor

- Rail provides a real alternative to driving or flying
$\square$ Should match driving speeds (including stops)
$\square$ Intermediate stops reduce attractiveness of rail and air
$\square$ Can charge premium price at higher than driving speeds
- Rail viable in high-density markets
$\square$ Demand substantially less in thin markets
$\square$ Commuter rail provides greatest airport feed at JFK and EWR
- Most Acela growth comes from I-95
- Air travel losing market share to Acela


## More activist approaches:

- Improve large-hub airport capacity to reduce air system travel times
$\square$ Restore short-haul air travel efficiency
$\square$ Improve schedule consistency
- Improve ground transportation infrastructure to increase speed of short-haul travel
$\square$ Diversion of demand improves efficiency of airports for long-haul travel (air's natural modal monopoly)
- Improving connectivity between all modes will reduce need for connecting short-haul flights at congested airports

