



EXPERTS | 2017

HNTB expert:

Laddie Irion

National Aviation Market Sector Leader

HNTB Corporation

“Airports’ traditional sources of funding – bond issuance, federal funding and passenger fees – are vulnerable to slow growth or even declines. We need to identify a permanent funding mechanism for improving airport facilities.”

Laddie Irion has worked on more than 100 aviation and airport projects in the United States and abroad. He served as principal-in-charge on a number of projects associated with large-scale airport expansion programs, including work in Dallas, Phoenix, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and Hong Kong.

Irion works closely with HNTB leadership and aviation professionals to broaden the range of value-based services that HNTB provides aviation clients. The firm’s many signature aviation projects include design of the “Green Build” expansion at San Diego International Airport; engineering and design services at Los Angeles World Airports; design and construction management of runway status light implementation at airports across the country; and design of the runway expansion at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

Additionally, he can speak on a wide variety of issues directly affecting the nation’s and states’ aviation systems, including:

- **NextGen**

Short for Next Generation Air Transportation System, NextGen will be a major component of future U.S. aviation infrastructure improvements. It has the potential to make modern air travel safer, more secure and more reliable.

- **Airport funding**

The FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 provided long-awaited stability in funding for airport facilities, but the United States still needs to identify a permanent funding mechanism for airport operations and upkeep. One important industry trend includes increased consideration of public-private partnerships, or P3s, for airport development programs. P3s offer a promising solution to airport funding by combining public and private capital to deliver programs sooner than traditional funding mechanisms.

- **Environmental sustainability**

Strategic investment in efficient and sustainable materials and approaches is wise. Many sustainability best practices can help airports grow a green bottom line as well as address energy efficiency.

- **Airport planning**

Before the first plane lands at a new or expanded airport, years of preparation and planning must take place, including environmental impact statements, airport noise and land use compatibility, and funding and financing.

Education

Bachelor of Arts, University of South Florida, Tampa

Supplemental Studies in computer science, environmental engineering and transportation modeling

Professional affiliations

Board of directors, Airport Council International-North America; World Business Partners/Associates Board, 2014-2017

Active in leadership positions in a number of industry associations and organizations, including American Association of Airport Executives, Airport Consultants Council, and Aero Club of Washington.

Board member, ACI-NA World Business Partners/Associates Board, 2015, 2016

Board member, AAAE Corporate Committee, 2016

Awards and recognition

Judge, Airport Business' 40 Under 40 list, 2015

Presenter, ACI-NA Downes Award, 2015

Moderator, ACC/AAAE Technical Symposium, 2015

Select media and appearances

Kansas City Business Journal, Aug. 2, 2017 - "HNTB isn't part of KCI competition but could get slice of the pie"

Airport Improvement, August 2017 - "Connectivity options make it easier to access the airport & community"

USA Today, March 6, 2017 - "Survey: Air travelers frustrated with waiting in lines"

Transportation Builder, March-April 2016 - "Airport construction projects taking off; FAA bill still uncertain"

AviationPros, March 8, 2016 - "HNTB brings expertise to the ACC/AAAE Airport Planning, Design and Construction Symposium"

Guest speaker, panelist or moderator at numerous industry conferences over a 25-year period. Representative organizations include:

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Transportation Research Board
- American Association of Airport Executives
- Airports Council International
- Airport Consultants Council
- American Planning Association
- Florida Airports Managers Association
- U.C. Berkeley/California DOT Symposium

To schedule an interview with Laddie Irion and for more information, contact:

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