



LETTER TO THE COMMISSION

LTC No: 26-063

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission
FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager *RW*
DATE: March 6, 2026
**SUBJECT: Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport Unleaded Aviation Fuel
FY2026 Quarterly Update #2**

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to provide the City Commission with Quarterly Update #2 on the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport's (FXE) response to City Commission direction regarding the availability and use of unleaded aviation fuel and lead emissions related to airport operations.

On July 2, 2024, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission adopted Resolution No. 24-128 directing the City Manager to implement a program to encourage the sale of unleaded aviation fuel at FXE, reduce lead emissions, offer incentives to transition general aviation piston-engine aircraft to unleaded aviation fuel by the end of 2030, and apply for grants from the State of Florida or the federal government to assist with implementation of the program.

Since adopting Resolution No. 24-128, the City Manager has provided quarterly LTCs on the program's progress.

Program Overview and Updates

In January 2026, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released the draft Transition Plan to Unleaded Aviation Gasoline (Transition Plan) as required by Section 827 of the 2024 FAA Reauthorization Act (Exhibit 1). The Transition Plan serves as a framework for safely transitioning the general aviation fleet (GA) in the United States from 100-octane low-lead (100LL) fuel to unleaded alternatives.

The Transition Plan provides an overview of the technical, regulatory, operational, and market factors that may influence the transition as unleaded fuels progress through approval and enter the marketplace as well as outlines the anticipated timelines, fuel authorization pathways, and a phased national approach.

The FAA's objective is to comply with the requirements of the 2024 FAA Reauthorization Act by establishing a nationwide framework to support a safe and orderly transition to unleaded aviation fuels. The Transition Plan recognizes that many factors influencing this shift are market-driven and that decisions made by aircraft owners, fuel manufacturers, distributors, and service providers will substantially impact the pace and overall success of implementation.

The FAA further acknowledges that the transition process will continue to evolve as 2030 approaches, particularly as new data, operational insights, and industry input become available. Accordingly, the Transition Plan is intended to be adaptive and may be revised to reflect evolving information and changing conditions.

The Transition Plan provides an overview of, and considerations related to, the following key areas:

- Fuel testing, evaluation, and authorization efforts conducted under the EAGLE initiative;
- Continued assessment and planning to ensure airport infrastructure can support the availability of unleaded aviation fuel;
- Identification and mitigation of supply chain and logistical constraints that could affect timely fuel distribution;
- Outreach and educational initiatives to inform piston aircraft owners and operators, airport sponsors, and the broader general aviation community regarding the safety, benefits, and accessibility of unleaded aviation gasoline; and
- Establishment of best practices to minimize personnel exposure to lead during operations involving leaded fuel throughout the transition period.

The draft framework for the Transition Plan proposes four (4) main phases of the transition:

- **Phase 1:** Conducts comprehensive FAA evaluation and authorization of high-octane unleaded fuels to confirm compliance with safety, performance, and fleet compatibility standards;
- **Phase 2:** Initiates controlled, early-stage deployment at select airports to validate production capacity, distribution systems, infrastructure readiness, and operational performance under real-world conditions;
- **Phase 3:** Implements a coordinated phase-out of 100LL across the contiguous United States, ensuring transition occurs only after unleaded fuel supply is stable and operators have approved compliance pathways; and
- **Phase 4:** Finalizes nationwide adoption by addressing the unique logistical challenges in Alaska, including remote access, high concentrations of piston-engine aircraft, and limited fuel distribution infrastructure.

The FAA developed the Transition Plan in alignment with recommendations from the congressionally mandated 2021 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report, *Options for Reducing Lead Emissions from Piston Engine Aircraft*, as well as guidance provided by the Unleaded Avgas Transition Aviation Rulemaking Committee (UAT ARC).

The FAA is accepting comments on the Transition Plan through March 13, 2026. FXE will review the Transition Plan, submit comments as necessary, and provide a summary in Quarterly Update #3.

Educational Outreach and Pilot Resources

1. Resource Webpage

FXE maintains a resource webpage dedicated to providing updates on approved unleaded fuels and the transition process. Pilots and aircraft operators can access information on Supplemental Type Certificates (STCs) and Approved Model Lists (AMLs), which are required for operating aircraft with unleaded fuels. The webpage also lists workshops, forums, and other fuel-related updates at FXE.

Webpage: <https://www.flyfxe.com/updates/fxe-eagle>

2. Pilot and Operator Education

On December 4, 2025, FXE hosted Avfuel Corporation (Avfuel) for a presentation to the City of Fort Lauderdale's Aviation Advisory Board (AAB), FXE's Fixed-Base Operators (FBOs), tenants, and stakeholders. Avfuel is a global aviation fuel and services supplier that promotes awareness and availability of approved unleaded fuels such as Swift 94-octane unleaded (UL94) and the emerging GAMI 100-octane unleaded (G100UL). The presentation addressed the transition process, fuel performance and aircraft compatibility.

3. Aircraft Owner Survey

In February 2026, FXE began conducting a second survey (Attachment 1) of aircraft operators to assess progress and interest in transitioning to unleaded fuel. The survey, originally scheduled for December 2025, was delayed allowing for the revision of the survey questions. The first survey, completed in quarter one (Q1) of Fiscal Year 2024-2025, showed no operators at FXE had transitioned to unleaded fuel. The results indicated twenty-five percent (25%) are willing to switch, and operators' main concerns include cost-effectiveness (sixty percent (60%)), engine compatibility (forty percent (40%)), regulatory compliance (thirty percent (30%)), and availability at local airports (twenty percent (20%)). The updated survey results will be included in Quarterly Update #3.

Staff continue to encourage all pilots and aircraft owners to consider the benefits of transitioning to unleaded fuel. FXE is committed to providing the necessary resources and support that is needed to ensure a successful transition, and advance sustainability in general aviation. Quarterly Update #3 is expected in May 2026.

For additional information, please contact Rufus A. James, Director of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, at rjames@fortlauderdale.gov or (954) 828-4968.

Attachment

1. FXE Fuel Transition Readiness Survey

c: Shari McCartney, City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
City Manager's Office
Department Directors

GA Fuel Transition Readiness Assessment

Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) is committed to advancing environmental stewardship and fostering innovation in aviation. In alignment with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and industry-wide efforts, FXE is supporting the transition of all general aviation piston-engine aircraft to unleaded fuel by 2030. Your insight is essential in helping us understand the challenges, benefits, and overall impacts of this transition. Please take a moment to complete this short survey and share your feedback.

Thank you for your time and participation.

GA Fuel Transition Readiness Assessment

*** 1. Operator/Company Name**

*** 2. Type of Operation:**

- Air Charter (Part 135)
- Private Owner / Part 91
- Flight Training
- Other (please specify)

*** 3. Number of aircraft in your fleet**

*** 4. Please indicate your aircraft types**

- Piston Single
- Piston Twin
- Turboprop
- Business Jet
- Helicopter
- Other (please specify)

*** 5. What type of fuel does your fleet currently use?**

- Jet A / Jet A-1
- 100LL Avgas

GA Fuel Transition Readiness Assessment

6. Did you know that Banyan Air Service, one of FXE's Fixed Based Operators (FBOs), offers Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)?

Yes

No

GA Fuel Transition Readiness Assessment

7. Would you like to receive more information about SAF at FXE?

Yes

No

GA Fuel Transition Readiness Assessment

* 8. Is your fleet compatible with Unleaded Avgas?

Yes

No

Some

GA Fuel Transition Readiness Assessment

* 9. When do you plan to transition to Unleaded Avgas?

- Within 1 year
- 1-3 years
- More than 3 years
- No plans at this time

* 10. What are the foreseen challenges to using Unleaded Avgas?

- Availability of fuel at local FBOs
- Higher cost compared to current fuels
- Aircraft certification / STC requirements
- Maintenance concerns
- Lack of information / guidance
- Other (please specify)

* 11. How can the Airport support your transition to Unleaded fuel?

- Financial incentives or grants
- Clear FAA guidance
- Local supply/availability
- Technical workshops / briefings
- Other (please specify)

GA Fuel Transition Readiness Assessment

* 12. I would like to receive email updates from the Airport regarding the transition to unleaded fuel.

Yes

No

GA Fuel Transition Readiness Assessment

* 13. Contact Name & Title

Title	<input type="text"/>
First name	<input type="text"/>
Last name	<input type="text"/>

* 14. Email Address

Email	<input type="text"/>
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15. Phone Number

Country code	<input type="text" value="▼"/>
Phone number	<input type="text" value="+1"/>
Ext.	<input type="text"/>

GA Fuel Transition Readiness Assessment

16. Additional comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding fuel transition