

Why we fly.

Fellow Venetians who have little to do with (or little regard for) our Airport might wonder why we pilots fly.

Some pilots fly for business. Some fly for a living for the airlines or charter companies. Some are students learning their art. Some look upon aviation as a hobby.

By far, the vast majority of us fly for one overriding reason... The same reason you may fly on the airlines... In a word, freedom.

Think about it. Airline passengers put up with all the lines, security procedures and cramped quarters on board an airliner because there's simply no other transportation option that will take you to such a wide variety of destinations in such a short period of time on such short notice.

There's an old saying; "Build a mile of road and you can go a mile – Build a mile of airport runway and you can go *anywhere!*"

It's absolutely true. Did you know that a typical mid level single engine airplane can carry four people and bags the equivalent of 225 road miles in one hour on about 15 gallons of gas? That's about 15 road miles per gallon. More important to the pilot and his passengers is the savings in time – 1 hour in the airplane versus 3 ¾ hours by car... Each way!

There are many pilots at our Airport that use there airplanes just this way. A day trip to anywhere on the Florida peninsula is easily within reach. Now that's freedom!

All of this freedom does necessitate an Airport, just as a road trip necessitates highways, interchanges and the attendant infrastructure.

That's why the Venice Municipal Airport is so important to those of us who are working to preserve this iconic Venetian landmark for future generations.

The next time you happen by the Venice Airport or see an airplane landing or taking off, think about why we fly.

Like I said, it's about freedom...Come to think of it, isn't that what the United States of America is all about?

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