

My View

By Daniel W. Santos
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Gregory Botsivales' misguided Times op-ed ("Airport gambles public funds") has again created confusion about what is going on with the airport improvement program. Anyone who drives by Barnstable Municipal Airport in Hyannis or flies from our gates surely has to be impressed with the work going on there. The steel frame of a new federally funded air traffic control tower has risen from the earth; work has begun on a largely state-funded passenger terminal that will replace our tired, outdated one; and earth movers are carving out an infiltration basin that will catch and drain treated storm water runoff to protect our vital ground water.

All of this work represents long-awaited progress – at no cost to Barnstable taxpayers – of which our community should be justifiably proud.

The tower and terminal will be completed and occupied by this time next year. All grants have been awarded. All permits from the Federal Aviation Administration, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Cape Cod Commission and Town of Barnstable are in hand.

The traffic plan for the Airport Rotary will improve vehicle flow, reduce congestion and eliminate dangerous left turns. It will take airport traffic off busy Route 132 and even improve access for customers that visit the fast food restaurant located on Mr. Botsivales' property.

It's hard to understand why anyone would oppose a completely transparent and worthwhile project that has been thoroughly vetted and financed, one that has, at its heart, improved passenger air service, safety, traffic improvements, job creation and economic growth for the region. I hasten to note that regional and local chambers of commerce are solidly behind the project.

All that is left to fulfill the dream of a generation of public servants is to stay focused on the construction project and the needs of our passengers and airlines, and not be distracted by the claims of a disgruntled property abutter.