

The logo features a red swoosh that starts under the word 'Ramp' and ends under 'Up!', with a small airplane icon at the tip of the swoosh. Below this, the word 'PARKING' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Ramp Up!**  
**PARKING**

**News Release**

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**Ford International Airport Announces New Temporary Roadway and  
Curb-Front Passenger Drop-off/Pick-up Location**

*Holiday travelers encouraged to arrive at the airport earlier*

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**Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 19, 2007** – Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) officials announced that, beginning Dec. 20, visitors will be directed to a new temporary roadway and curb-front passenger drop-off and pick-up area. The new area will be located approximately 175 feet out from the current location outside the terminal. Airport roadway signs will direct visitors to the relocated area. (Map available at [www.flygrandrapids.org/ParkTrans.php](http://www.flygrandrapids.org/ParkTrans.php).)

The new roadway and curb-front location will feature covered walkways leading into the terminal. While minimal impact to airport users is expected, travelers are encouraged to allow for additional time to wayfind, especially during the holidays.

The temporary roadway and curb-front relocation will allow for continued construction of the new 4,900-space, four-story, covered parking ramp and terminal structure that began in September and is slated to be completed in the fall of 2009. The significantly improved parking and related terminal improvements will feature pedestrian sky bridges connecting the ramp to the terminal, a covered roadway canopy for passenger drop-offs, and all new utilities and roadway infrastructure. In addition to safe, close, covered short- and long-term vehicle parking, the facility will house on-site rental car operations.

During the construction period, visitors should look for directional signage located throughout airport roadways. Currently, short-term, long-term and handicap parking instructions are as follows:

**Short-term parking:**

- Limited-space, short-term parking is located at the east end of the terminal (look for signs)
- Overnight parking is prohibited in the short-term lot
- Hourly parking is available in all long-term lots, including the Express Shuttle lot

**Long-term parking is available in:**

- East Lot
- North Lot
- Express Shuttle parking lot, located on the north side of John Oostema Blvd. (one block east of Patterson Ave.)
- Patrons are **required** to use the free shuttle service to/from all long-term lots

**Handicap parking:**

- A portion of every open lot is devoted to handicap parking

**Short-term visitors should consider alternative plans, such as:**

- Curb-front passenger drop-off/pick-up
- Cell phone parking lot – a limited-space, free parking area for those picking up arriving passengers

**Important considerations for travelers:**

- All visitors parking in a long-term lot are required to take a shuttle to and from the terminal for safety reasons
- Travelers are strongly encouraged to **allow an additional 30 minutes** to park, ride a shuttle and arrive at the terminal (beyond the recommended ninety minutes before your scheduled departure time)

In addition to periodic news media briefings, GFIA staff will continue to communicate updates and information throughout the course of the project through signage, flyers and other materials. Additional information about lot closures and the parking project may be found at:

- ***Ramp Up!*** – Red directional and advisory signs on airport roadways assist drivers, airport patrons and the general public in quickly and easily identifying project-related information and instructions. Visitors may also sign up and receive project-related updates via e-mail.
- **flygrandrapids.org** – Click on the *Ramp Up!* link (an online site that provides up-to-date parking and project information).
- **AM 1610** – Tune in for information, including project advisories and instructions, on airport radio station AM 1610.
- **233-RAMP** – Phone hotline featuring recorded messages with current project information.

Gerald R. Ford International Airport currently serves more than two million passengers annually. GFIA is the second busiest airport in Michigan and ranks among the top 15 percent of the busiest airports nationwide.

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