

The logo features the text "Ramp Up!" in a bold, red, italicized sans-serif font. A red swoosh underline starts under the "R" and extends to the right, ending in a small black silhouette of an airplane. Below this, the word "PARKING" is written in a bold, black, all-caps sans-serif font.

Ramp Up! **PARKING**

News Release

August 29, 2007

Contact: Bruce Schedlbauer,
Marketing and Communications Manager
616-233-6053

Ford International Airport Awards Construction Bid; Short-Term Lot Relocation Begins September 9

Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) announced today it has awarded the construction bid for its Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program to The Christman Company, a Lansing, Mich.-based construction firm that had submitted the lowest bid, at \$118 million, for the project.

GFIA officials expect construction on the project, which will feature a four-story, 4,900-space parking ramp, to begin in September. The entire project, including the new ramp, is scheduled for completion in fall of 2009.

"We look forward to beginning construction on this project, which we believe is critical in growing the airport to meet the region's current and future needs," said James Koslosky, GFIA aeronautics director. "In addition, the key component of this project, a user-friendly parking environment, will assist us in our ongoing efforts to support economic development activities and attract more flights and carriers to the region."

In addition to announcing the bid award, GFIA officials also announced that beginning September 9, short-term, long-term and handicap parking will be available at the following locations:

Short-term parking

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

Long-term parking

- East Lot
- North Lot
- Express Shuttle parking lot located on the north side of John Oostema Blvd. (one block east of Patterson Ave.)
- Shuttle service is available to and from all long-term lots

Handicap parking

- A portion of every open lot will be devoted to handicap parking

- more -

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In addition to the limited-space, relocated short-term parking lot during construction, GFIA is encouraging airport visitors to consider the following parking options:

- valet parking
- curbside airline passenger drop-off and pickup
- Express Shuttle parking, which offers hourly parking rates
- hourly parking in any of the long-term lots
- cell phone parking lot - a limited-space, free parking area for those waiting to pick up arriving passengers

“We have implemented a number of parking options to ensure that the construction-related relocation of our parking areas is as seamless as possible for our visitors,” Koslosky added.

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

- ***Ramp Up!*** – Red directional and advisory signs on airport roadways will assist drivers, airport patrons and the general public in quickly and easily identifying project-related information and instructions
- **flygrandrapids.org** – Click on the *Ramp Up!* link (an online site that provides up-to-date parking and project information)
- **AM 1610** – Information, including project advisories and instructions, on the 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 in Michigan and ranks among the top 15 percent of busiest airports nationwide.

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