



News Alert

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

HOLIDAY TRAVEL SEASON KICKS OFF; FORD AIRPORT OFFICIALS REMIND VISITORS THAT AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION IS STILL UNDERWAY

Grand Rapids, Mich., Nov. 24, 2008 – As the holiday travel season kicks off, construction on the Terminal Area and Parking Improvement Program continues at Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA). Airport officials want to remind those who haven't visited the airport recently that certain construction-related, temporary conditions exist. In particular, customers will be directed to a temporary roadway and covered, temporary curb-front passenger drop-off and pick-up area. Enclosed walkway access is available to and from the terminal.

Travelers should also be aware of parking lot locations that may have changed in the past year. Airport roadway signs will direct motorists to the relocated areas. While minimal impact to airport users is expected, travelers are encouraged to allow for additional time to wayfind, especially during the holidays.

Parking instructions are as follows:

Short-term parking:

- Limited-space, short-term parking is located at the east end of the terminal (watch 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:

- 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 are also encouraged to consider alternative options, such as:

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

Anyone traveling to/from the airport this holiday season should consider the following:

- Visit www.flygrandrapids.org, and when approaching the airport tune to AM 1610, for airport news and parking information.
- All visitors should watch for directional signage as they enter the airport grounds to make their way to the temporary passenger drop-off/pick-up area and designated parking areas.
- All visitors parking in a long-term lots are required to take a shuttle to and from the terminal for construction safety reasons.
- Travelers are strongly encouraged to arrive at the airport **a full 90 minutes** prior to scheduled departure in order to allow sufficient time to park, ride a shuttle, and arrive at the terminal.
- Valet parking is also available for customer convenience.

The construction of the new 4,900-space, four-story, covered parking ramp and terminal area improvements is slated for completion in October 2009. Customer conveniences will include enclosed pedestrian sky bridges connecting the ramp to the passenger terminal, a covered roadway canopy for passenger pick-up/drop-off, and safe, close, covered short- and long-term vehicle parking.

Gerald R. Ford International Airport currently serves approximately two million passengers annually and is the second busiest airport in Michigan.

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