

The logo features the text "Ramp Up!" in a bold, red, sans-serif font, with a red swoosh underline that ends in a small airplane icon. Below this, the word "PARKING" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Ramp Up! **PARKING**

News Alert

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

Ford International Airport Announces New Location of Temporary Walkways

Grand Rapids, Mich., March 17, 2008 – Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) officials announced that, **beginning the evening of March 19, the enclosed passenger walkways located between the terminal building and the temporary terminal curb-front will move from the current location near the east end of the temporary curb-front passenger pick-up/drop-off area to a location near the center of the temporary curb-front.** The temporary roadway and curb-front passenger pick-up/drop-off area will remain the same.

While impact on airport users is expected to be minimal, travelers are encouraged to allow for additional time to wayfind, especially during the Easter holiday and Spring Break travel season.

The new walkway location will allow for continued construction in the immediate vicinity of the front of the passenger terminal building to make way for the new 4,900-space, four-story, covered parking ramp and terminal structure that began in September 2007. The project is slated to be completed in the fall of 2009. The parking ramp and 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.

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

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NOTE: Crews have begun erecting the 56-foot columns that will support the parking structure roadway canopy.