



AGTA News from the Airport Curb



Thank You from AGTA!

You came through again, supporting your association by not only taking time out of your busy workweek to attend, but with your willingness to share your insights, your successes and even your not-so-successful endeavors with your colleagues in the airport ground transportation industry - all with the intent of enhancing the experiences of travelers at all our airports.

We especially appreciate companies like **Blue Star Gas** and **GateKeeper Systems** - who have repeatedly supported the activities of AGTA through their sponsorships - and encourage you to support them as your needs occur. Without the support of our host airport, Raleigh International Airport and the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority, our meeting would not have been possible...Thank you again.



Reminder

**2023 RENEWAL INVOICES WILL BE
ISSUED NOVEMBER 15
AND WILL BE DUE JANUARY 1, 2023**

GROUND TRANSPORTATION NEWS

[Goodbye, planes, trains and automobiles. Hello, luxury bus?](#)

Chicago Tribune - Oct. 25, 2022

John Rosenberg found a last-minute flight for \$200 last month from Washington, D.C., to Nashville, Tennessee, to see Pearl Jam. But flights home were \$600, and there was no easy way to take the train.

Rosenberg started searching for buses online. He stumbled on Napaway, a company that promised premium overnight accommodations on an 18-passenger bus with seats that fold into a flat bed and come with a pillow and plush blanket.

The week before, Rosenberg and his friends had spent 18 hours at Midway Airport, in Chicago, after they were bounced off their connecting flight to Washington. He spent the night cold and slept a total of 45 minutes in the airport chapel before security kicked him out.

He booked the flight to Nashville and a ticket home on the Napaway for \$125.

On a Sunday night, after spending the weekend in Nashville, Rosenberg joined five other passengers, including me, on the Napaway, which in June began taking travelers back and forth from Washington to Nashville.

The company and other premium bus companies like it are betting that Americans will abandon the image of the rumbling, cramped bus as the transport of last resort for the cash-strapped and embrace long-haul coach travel.

More successful have been high-end coach services that offer shorter journeys, including Red Coach, Vonlane and the Jet, a 14-seat bus that ferries people from Metro Center in Washington to Hudson Yards in the New York City borough of Manhattan.

They advertise seats that recline far back, high-speed Wi-Fi and a feeling that even though you're technically on an intercity bus, you are on a refined, affordably priced journey, said Andisheh Ranjbari, an assistant professor of travel behavior at Penn State.

Napaway is the only "fully flat" sleeper bus in the country, said founder and CEO Dan Aronov. He is aware that many travelers may be skeptical of taking a 10- to 11-hour bus ride when a flight from Washington to Nashville takes less than 2 hours.

Premium coach lines have significantly fewer overhead costs than rail and especially airlines, which have much higher fuel costs and need a "small army" of employees to operate, he said.

By contrast, a premium bus requires a crew of one to two drivers and perhaps one attendant, which means that even if a company sells fewer than half of its seats on a trip, it can still cover its costs, so long as it does not lower fares to compete with conventional bus lines, Schwieterman said.

Tickets on the Napaway start at \$125 each way. The Napaway travels from Washington to Nashville, with stops in Knoxville. It currently leaves only on Friday (with plans to add Wednesday and Thursday) at 10 p.m. from 180 L St. NE in Washington and arrives in Nashville at 8 a.m. Central time the next day. The bus will drop you off at 421 Rep. John Lewis Way N, about a half-mile from Broadway.

The Napaway leaves Nashville on Sunday at 7:30 p.m. and, barring unforeseen traffic, returns to Washington the next day at 7:30 a.m. If you have time before meeting the bus and feel like spending \$15 to \$18 on a cocktail, stop for a drink at Skull's Rainbow Room, a bar and restaurant with friendly, skilled bartenders that is a 7-minute walk from Napaway's meeting spot.

Uber pilots electric cab offering in India

TechCrunch.com - Oct. 21, 2022

Uber has started offering electric vehicles to customers in certain parts of the Delhi-NCR region and says it will be expanding its efforts over the coming months. The electric cabs are currently only available for pre-scheduled trips.

"As the leading mobility app in India, we are committed to supporting the Indian government's emission goals. Expect to see more electric vehicles — be they two, three or four-wheeled — across Indian cities in the coming months," the spokeswoman said in a statement emailed to TechCrunch in response to a query.

The company did not share how many EV cabs were operational on its platform in India, but insisted that it is working with multiple fleet partners, OEMs and charging infra providers "to gradually build the EV business in a sustainable manner."

Uber's move comes as India pushes ride-hailing firms to electrify a significant portion of their fleets over the next few years. Reuters reported in 2019 that the Indian government had ordered Uber and its arch-rival Ola to convert 5% of their fleet by 2022 and [make it 40% by April 2026](#). The push came amid New Delhi's pledge to reduce dependency on oil imports and cut air pollution to meet its commitment to 2015 Paris climate change treaty.

The electric cabs are available through the Reserve feature on the app, allowing customers to choose a pick-up time for the ride up to 30 days in advance. Users can cancel their scheduled trips 60 minutes before their trip for no charge, according to description on the app.

Both the federal government and various state governments in India have started to offer incentives to customers and vendors in recent years to increase the adoption of EVs. The state government in Delhi, for instance, says it has [installed 1,000 EV charging points](#) across the city. It also introduced the Delhi EV policy in August 2020, as part of which it gives subsidies for installing charging stations. The city is aiming to get 18,000 EV charging points in the next three years.

Ola — which counts SoftBank, Temasek Holdings, Hyundai Motor and Kia among its investors — also has a [separate electric mobility unit](#) to build EVs. The company initially introduced its EV scooters in the market and says it has plans to expand that business to include an electric car in 2024.

Ola has also tried to enter the market of EV cabs in India. In 2018, it [launched a program](#) called "Mission: Electric" to bring electric cabs, electric auto rickshaws, electric buses, rooftop solar installations, charging stations and battery swapping experiments in the country.

Other than Uber and Ola, Gurugram-based BluSmart Electric Mobility is also in the race for EV cabs in the South Asian market. The company, which [raised \\$25 million](#) from BP Ventures earlier this year and is [eyeing to raise \\$250 million](#), has an all-electric fleet as a significant difference over the existing two giants. It also claims to have completed more than 2.8 million all-electric trips and has over a million app downloads since its launch in 2019. BluSmart's reach is, however, currently limited to Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru.

Uber has been offering EVs in the U.S. and Europe for some time. The San Francisco, California-headquartered company runs an Uber Green program to offer EVs on its fleet and aims to [become a zero-emission platform by 2040](#). It has also set aside \$800 million to encourage drivers on its platform to start using EVs by 2025.

Grant Application Window Now Open for Propane, Natural Gas Vehicles **Next Gen Transportation News** - Oct. 24, 2022

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is now accepting applications for the [Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Grant Program](#) (TNGVGP).

TCEQ says an estimated \$34 million in grant funding is now available to replace or repower heavy- and medium-duty vehicles that operate for at least 75% of their annual use within one or more of the counties in the [Clean Transportation Zone](#), which includes large metros such as Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston.

The TNGVGP provides vehicle grants to replace heavy-duty or medium-duty motor vehicles with natural gas vehicles or repower them with natural gas engines. Eligible natural gas fuels include compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas and propane autogas.

Applicants may qualify for up to 90% of the cost to replace or repower their eligible vehicles.

Detailed eligibility requirements and instructions for how to apply for a TNGVGP grant can be found [on the grant website](#). Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until 5 p.m. Central Standard Time on March 31, 2023.

The program may suspend acceptance of applications if all funds are awarded before the program is scheduled to close.

JFK Airport offers Eyewitness News exclusive ride aboard new driverless shuttle **ABC7NY.com** - Oct. 18, 2022

QUEENS, New York -- The future is taking off at John F. Kennedy Airport, where a driverless shuttle is being tested out that would take passengers to and from the long-term parking lot.

Eyewitness News went along for an exclusive ride in the prototype passenger shuttle, which has four wheels, 12 seats, but the twist is that there is not a single driver on board.

"We hope it's very exciting for your first ride and very boring for your second ride thereafter," said Seth Wainer of Port Authority.

Wainer is in charge of innovation at the Port Authority. At Aqueduct Racetrack on Tuesday, his team put so-called autonomous vehicles, or AV's, through their paces as they consider buying a few as a pilot program, to transport real, live passengers at JFK.

"We're thinking heavily about how do we thread through these more long-term innovative elements into the experience, and we hope very much it'll be just as important to the traveler as getting from here to there, as a beautiful walkway or promenade," Wainer said. "We think this is a really exciting flexible way to do that."

The vehicles are basically silent and are fully electric, meaning zero emissions.

"It's going to stop for whatever obstacle may be in front of it," said John Balon of Navya.

Navya is the first of several AV manufacturers the Port Authority is considering for this investment. He says the shuttle just goes where it's told.

"Along with the shuttle running a predetermined path there's a sensor set of eight sensors that scan the area at all times," Balon said.

Less than half the cost of an electric bus, the shuttles first would replace a bus at the long-term Howard Beach parking lot.

"In the current climate, specifically around climate crisis," Wainer said. "We just need to demand more from our public sector and our public sector needs to step up and meet that demand."

If the Port Authority moves ahead with the concept, JFK will be North America's first airport to deploy this type of technology.

How does the new color coded transportation system work at the Rapid City Regional Airport?

NewsCenter1.tv - Oct. 21, 2022

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The Rapid City Regional Airport has always had a variety of ground transportation options for arriving passengers, but they've been updating, organizing and expanding those options recently.

"We recognize that over the years the ground transportation needs and methods have changed," Toni Broom, deputy director for Finance and Administration of the Rapid City Regional Airport, said. "We had started to launch our ground transportation program prior to COVID hitting. So, we've experienced some delays with that."

They have a new color-coded system implemented late this summer, along with new contracts with transportation companies Turo, Lyft, and Uber.

Any person or company that wants to provide transportation must first obtain an Operator Permit from the airport and the permits are non-transferable.

"We will be holding some public meetings in the future. Like I said, we'll be reaching out to anyone who's interested, that we're aware of, in the ground transportation program so that they can also get a copy of those rules and regulations and just the permitting process," Broom said.

"We focus a lot on the incoming passenger. We do all of our marketing to the incoming passenger because the airport is such a huge economic engine for the community and for the region. And we recognize that some of the passengers coming in are looking for some of those more modern ways of transportation," Broom said. "For instance, the Turo, the peer to peer, which is where you can actually rent a personal vehicle.

The taxi queue has three available spaces, and if the space is filled, taxis should wait in the airport-designated Ground Transportation Parking Lot until there is space in the taxi queue which is designated with orange signs.

There is also [contract shuttle](#) on site, but that is also up for bid right now. The airport is receiving proposals for a contract shuttle operator.

"Our next steps are going to be contacting all the operators in the area, such as the taxicab companies, some of the other hotels that do their direct shuttling so they can be informed of our new program permitting requirements because we are implementing permit requirements in order to be able to use our ground transportation island," Broom said.

In the new color-coded transportation island, there are four available spaces. A permitted shuttle Ground Transportation Operator (GTO) may have a maximum of two vehicles in the area waiting to pick up passengers. This area is colored green.

The contract shuttle can provide transportation to locations like hotels, but they work through the airport.

The other shuttles section is for companies that operate their own shuttles not contracted by the airport. This could include hotels, tour companies or campgrounds that have their own shuttles. In this case, they would need an operator permit and they would use the purple section with buses and limos.

"We wanted to make sure that everybody had a level playing field out on the ground transportation island. There is a lot of passenger demand for some of those different methods of transportation. So we want to make sure that they are available, that those folks are appropriately permitted with the airport so that they're authorized to work and park on that island," Broom said. "We do have a lot of folks that still park on that island that are not ground transportation operators. So we've got some folks that we're hiring, we're putting in place so that we can better monitor the activity on that ground transportation island."

bp pulse to launch Gigahub EV fast-charging hubs for ride-hail fleet charging near airports and other high-demand U.S. locations

PR Newswire - Oct. 26, 2022

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. -- bp pulse announced today plans to establish the bp pulse Gigahub network, a series of large, EV fast-charging hubs designed to serve ride-hail and taxi fleets near U.S. airports and high-demand locations across the nation. The first planned location would be built near Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) in collaboration with Hertz and is partially funded by a grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC).

The CEC is providing a \$2 million grant award to support the proposed project near LAX, and would have bp pulse leading the installation and management of the charging infrastructure, including the use of its proprietary 'Omega' charge management software that optimizes the cost of charging. The bp pulse Gigahub site would be located at one of Hertz's sites near LAX.

Vic Shao, president of bp pulse's fleet division, said: "More and more ride-hail and taxi fleets are making bold commitments to electrify. To do so successfully, they will need access to reliable EV charging. Our Gigahub network will provide a charging experience that is convenient and cost-optimized to drivers at airports across the country."

Jeff Nieman, Senior Vice President of Operations Initiatives at Hertz, added: "Our aim is to provide Hertz customers with access to a national network of chargers that makes the experience of renting an electric vehicle convenient and seamless. Rideshare drivers are essential to the mobility landscape and more than 25,000 Uber drivers have rented EVs through Hertz to date. We are thrilled to partner with bp pulse to offer this charging hub to those drivers at one of Hertz's great sites near LAX. And it's just the beginning."

The development of the Gigahub network is part of bp pulse's commitment to making the adoption of electric transportation simple, reliable, and cost-effective. Globally, bp has a goal of expanding its network of chargers to 100,000 by 2030. Recently, bp pulse and Hertz announced a memorandum of understanding to build out charging infrastructure at Hertz locations across North America.

The grant from the CEC is part of the California Clean Transportation Program's Charging Access for Reliable On-Demand Transportation Services initiative. This initiative aims to mitigate the environmental impact of significant ride-hail penetration in Los Angeles' transportation space.

Patty Monahan, Lead California Energy Commissioner for Transportation, said: "Vehicles employed by California's ride-hailing fleets make up 2.5 percent of the vehicle population, but consume 30 percent of all public fast charging. The California Energy Commission is proud to support projects like the Gigahub network by bp pulse, near LAX in partnership with Hertz, two transportation powerhouses who are working together to help electrify ride-hailing and rental fleets and cut pollution in communities."

bp's ambition is to become a net zero company by 2050 or sooner, and to help the world get to net zero. bp has a larger economic footprint in the United States than anywhere else in the world, investing more than \$130 billion in the economy and supporting about 245,000 jobs. For more information on bp in the US, visit www.bp.com/us.

Electric buses are ready for takeoff at US airports

Canary Media - Oct. 28, 2022

Battery-powered buses are hitting streets nationwide as operators ditch their diesel-guzzling models. This week, the Biden administration awarded nearly \$1 billion to help school districts revamp their yellow bus fleets and reduce kids' exposure to air pollution. Transit agencies from Los Angeles County to New York City are working to fully electrify public transportation networks. And across the asphalt expanses of airports, electric buses are increasingly whisking passengers from terminals to tarmacs.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the largest U.S. transportation agency, has awarded more than \$27 million this year to help a dozen airports purchase zero-emission buses, charging stations and equipment used to service planes at gates. That's on top of the more than \$300 million in grants it disbursed last year to electrify airport equipment.

"Electrifying airports is an important part of reaching net-zero emissions and addressing our climate crisis," Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg told Canary Media. "This funding moves us closer to this goal while helping get passengers and their luggage where they need to go."

Airport operations contribute a relatively tiny share — 1.7 percent — of carbon dioxide emissions from the U.S. aviation sector, according to the FAA. More than 97 percent of the sector's CO2 emissions are from burning fossil jet fuel on U.S. domestic and international flights.

Yet buses and other ground equipment can still spew harmful diesel exhaust into the communities surrounding airports. And unlike replacing jet fuel with hydrogen or battery power, or using 100 percent sustainable aviation fuel, electrifying transit vehicles is something the aviation industry can do immediately to reduce greenhouse gases.

"Our largest effort to reduce emissions is to electrify our entire shuttle bus fleet," said Haley Gentry, CEO of Charlotte Douglas International Airport in North Carolina.

It's the world's sixth-busiest airport for passenger traffic, and it is aiming to retire its fleet of nearly 60 diesel shuttle buses and replace it with 50 electric models by the end of this decade. With the help of nearly \$10 million in FAA grants, operators have so far purchased 10 battery-powered buses, placed orders for five more and installed 11 electric charging stations, she said.

The electric fleet includes models from both U.S. manufacturer Proterra, which made the vehicles in Greenville, South Carolina, and Canadian company New Flyer, which produced the buses used at the airport at a facility in Anniston, Alabama.

At around \$750,000 each, new electric buses cost twice as much as diesel versions. But airport officials have said they expect to save money in the long term due to the lower costs of operating and maintaining the battery-powered models. Gentry said the electric buses also offer a much quieter ride and are smoother in stop-and-go conditions.

"Not to mention, of course, there's zero diesel fuel burn," she added.

In California, Sacramento International Airport (SMF) has 10 electric buses and eight more on the way. Operators are working to replace their entire fleet of 35 buses, which run on compressed natural gas — a fuel that produces fewer smog-related tailpipe emissions than diesel but is still primarily composed of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. SMF received \$4.6 million in FAA grants last year to start making the switch.

Some electric bus manufacturers, including New Flyer and BYD, place batteries on the roofs of vehicles. But SMF's facility isn't set up for mechanics to fix bus parts or retool battery systems at heights of nine-plus feet. "We need a floor-mounted battery," Taylor said. The airport also didn't want to bet on a fledgling vehicle-maker with an untested bus; planners wanted to order models that were already in operation elsewhere.

The Proterra buses primarily recharge at a bus lot located near the airport's 7.9-megawatt solar farm. During the day, drivers can plug in the vehicles between runs to top off batteries with solar

electricity — a practice known as “opportunity charging” — though the buses do most of their battery charging while parked for the night.

VIA brings on professional help to secure federal funds for bus-to-airport service

San Antonio Report - Oct. 31, 2022

Eyeing a narrow window of opportunity for collaboration with partners in the White House, the VIA Metropolitan Transit is leaving nothing to chance when it comes to seeking federal funding for the city’s planned bus-to-airport service.

San Antonio’s [Advanced Rapid Transit \(ART\) plan](#) relies heavily on the prospect of federal money and received a nod from the Biden administration earlier this year when it was included in the president’s fiscal year 2023 budget.

The actual funding wouldn’t come until 2024, however, and VIA is still trying to rule out any question as to whether San Antonio will have the required local funding in place.

VIA President and CEO Jeff Arndt said Monday that the organization is paying a former acting administrator of the Federal Transit Administration, Carolyn Flowers, to help advise with the grant process. At her recommendation, VIA is asking both the city and county to reaffirm their financial commitments to the project in order to improve its prospects of being funded.

“Believe me, it’s a tough process to get \$160 million, and we don’t want to leave any reason for someone to say, ‘No, we can’t fund you,’” Arndt told members of the San Antonio City Council’s Transportation and Mobility Committee on Monday.

The North-South portion of the ART would begin at the San Antonio International Airport and travel in dedicated lanes along San Pedro Avenue through downtown, extending past the Blue Star arts complex in Southtown.

It’s expected to cost about \$320 million, of which local authorities are expected to cover half.

Some of the local funds are expected to come from money the city was [able to put aside](#) thanks to federal pandemic relief. The rest is supposed to come from a one-eighth of a cent of sales tax revenue that voters in 2020 approved [taking from an Edwards Aquifer protection program and linear greenway trails](#) to fund transit. VIA will be able to collect the additional tax revenue starting in 2026.

As the regional metropolitan transit authority, VIA also collects a half-cent sales tax in most of Bexar County.

Though the tax revenue reallocation approved in 2020 was directly intended to allow VIA to compete for federal dollars, the eighth-cent sales tax technically goes to the organization, the city and the county. Arndt said Monday that VIA needs formal resolutions confirming that the city and county’s shares would go toward the plan.

“Lacking that resolution, the federal government would look at the city’s piece and ... they would say we can’t count that toward your economic analysis because [that piece of the funding] does not come to you,” Arndt said.

If VIA receives the federal match, construction on the North-South line is expected to begin in 2025 and be completed by 2027.

Arndt said VIA has yet to secure a local funding match for a second segment of the project, which would run from General McMullen Drive on the West Side to near the AT&T Center on the East Side along parts of Houston and Commerce streets.

In an interview after the meeting Arndt stressed that VIA was still working closely with the Biden administration, which supports the project.

“We have an administration right now that is favorable,” Arndt said. “We are wanting to make sure that we can have that administration making [the decision whether to fund this project].”

Tesla workers commuting from Modesto Airport. But there is no flight involved

The Modesto Bee - Oct. 31, 2022

More than 100 men and women were lined up on the sidewalk in front of the Modesto Airport about 3 p.m. Thursday, waiting for three buses that would take them to their jobs with Tesla in the Bay Area.

The electric carmaker busing its workers from the Northern San Joaquin Valley to the Bay Area is not new, but it's new for the Modesto Airport and lucrative for the city.

Tesla entered into a two-year lease with Modesto on Oct. 10 in which it will pay the city \$40,000 a month for 500 parking spaces at the airport. That's \$480,000 a year, or nearly \$1 million over the two years. Tesla has a factory in Fremont, a roughly 70-mile drive from Modesto through at times horrible commuter traffic.

Thirty-two-year-old Modesto resident Juan Telles was among those in line Thursday. He said he's a quality technician at the Fremont factory and has worked for Tesla for eight months. (Tesla did not respond to a question regarding the buses' destination.)

Telles said taking the bus means workers can sleep, study for school, catch up on their emails and use the Wi-Fi. "Overall," he said, "it's less stressful. ... I don't have to spend as much on gas. I save \$20 a day on gas. And I have a Prius."

He and fellow Tesla workers used to park in Salida to catch the buses, Telles said. Several Tesla workers waiting in line said the move to the airport started Oct. 17.

Councilman David Wright has said that Tesla picked the airport because it was looking for a more central park-and-ride location for its workers throughout the Modesto region. Wright serves on the city's Airport Advisory Committee and has said a city official briefed the committee around August about what was then a proposal.

Telles lives downtown, so the airport is much more convenient than driving to Salida.

But a Turlock woman waiting in line said she preferred Salida. She said it now takes the buses a little longer to get onto Highway 99. The woman, who declined to give her name, said the commute each way is 90 minutes to two hours, depending on traffic. She said driving by car takes just as much time.

The woman said she has worked for Tesla for about two years and is a production worker in the Fremont factory. She works four 12-hour days, followed by three days off. Those are long days when she adds in her commute. "Sleep," she responded when she asked about an advantage of commuting by bus. "From there to here. Sleep."

The lease agreement states Tesla has around-the-clock daily access to the parking spaces, which are in two parking lots and a gravel lot at the airport. The lease agreement states Tesla is responsible for the security of its parking lots. There were security guards in at least one of the parking lots Thursday.

The Modesto Airport has not had commercial passenger flights since June 2014, when SkyWest departed. SkyWest had offered daily round trips to San Francisco, where Modesto passengers caught connecting flights. But the flights were hindered by cancellations and delays.

Construction work begins on Melbourne's \$10 billion Airport Rail Link

Business News Australia - Oct. 31, 2022

Early construction has begun on Melbourne's \$10 billion Airport Rail link, which will see more than 30 stations across the city have a direct connection to the nation's second busiest airport via the Metro Tunnel.

The project forms a key part of the major \$125 billion Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) development that is aiming to deliver a 90km orbital railway between Cheltenham and Werribee across four stages.

Slated for completion in 2029, works for the Airport Rail (SRL Airport) link are underway at Keilor East, where a new station will connect more than 150,000 passengers in the City of Moonee Valley to Victoria's rail network for the first time.

While passengers from the CBD will be able to arrive at Melbourne (Tullamarine) Airport in 30 minutes, people coming from Ballarat will shed almost an hour off their commute, reaching their destination in just 90 minutes.

The first tranche of the project involves the removal and relocation of six AusNet electricity transmission towers between the Western Ring Road (M80) and the existing Albion-Jacana freight corridor. Repositioning the towers will create space for a rail bridge over the M80, which will take trains to the airport every 10 minutes.

A construction consortium comprising FCC Construction Australia, Winslow Infrastructure and McConnell Dowell have been selected to deliver key parts of the project, including a 550-metre twin-track rail bridge over the Maribyrnong River. The bridge will stand more than 50m above the river valley at its highest point, making it the second-highest bridge in the state after West Gate Bridge (58m).

Premier Daniel Andrews said The Suburban Rail Loop will change the way the whole state moves, connecting every major suburban and regional rail line to Melbourne Airport.

In addition, the state government has also committed \$143 million to improve Sunshine Station, which is set to become a major interchange along the rail line for regional Victoria.

The upgrade will see the site nearly double in size, including a new bus interchange, shared vehicle and pedestrian pavements, more open-space and the creation of future development sites.

"Getting started on this much-needed upgrade to Sunshine Station and Station Place comes on top of a brand-new station at Tarneit West, an overhaul of Albion Station and planning for a station at Truganina – creating jobs, supporting local businesses and getting passengers home safer and sooner," Member for Tarneit Sarah Connolly said.

Member for St Albans Natalie Suleyman added the Sunshine Station upgrade will give the entire precinct a facelift, with modern facilities and better access bring the busy local hub up to the standard commuters in Melbourne's west expect and deserve.

The project has received \$5 billion each from the federal and state governments respectively.

[City of Atlanta Selects SP+ Corporation to Enhance Airport Parking & Shuttle Operations](#)

Benzinga - Nov. 1, 2022

CHICAGO (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- SP Plus Corporation (SP+), a leading provider of technology-driven mobility solutions for aviation, commercial, hospitality and institutional clients throughout North America, announced its selection by the City of Atlanta to provide parking, transportation and facility maintenance services at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL).

SP+ was awarded the five-year contract as part of a joint venture with Atlanta-based Red Bridge Consulting named SP Plus Red Bridge (SPRB) Joint Venture. The joint venture brings together decades of airport operational expertise and industry leading technologies from SP+ paired with Red Bridge Consulting's local talent and in-depth knowledge of the Atlanta market.

"As the world's busiest airport, we want our visitors to enjoy their travel experience from the moment they arrive to park their car to the time they return to retrieve their vehicle. Our parking and shuttle operations serve a critical function at ATL and we look forward to this partnership," said Katie Staniel, Director of Parking for the City of Atlanta.

Under the new contract, SPRB manages the operations for nearly 34,000 parking spaces in five garages and four surface lots located within the ATL campus—plus the transportation of 70 shuttle buses.

"ATL is a massive operation. Our goal is to optimize landside parking and transportation operations for the Airport, while creating a frictionless travel experience for visitors and employees from the moment they step foot on the property. That requires innovative technologies, a broad range of services, and experience alleviating congestion at high-traffic airports and businesses—all of which we excel at delivering," said Jack Ricchiuto, President of the Airport Division at SP+ who oversees the SP Plus Red Bridge Joint Venture.

Among the nearly 400 local employees SPRB is hiring are those employed by Vectour Group and All(N)1, the minority- and women-owned business entities hired to perform shuttle bus and security services, respectively.

SP+ facilitates the efficient movement of people, vehicles and personal belongings with the goal of enhancing the consumer experience while improving bottom line results for our clients. The Company provides technology-driven mobility solutions, professional parking management, ground transportation, remote baggage check-in and handling, facility maintenance, security, and event logistics to aviation, commercial, hospitality, healthcare and government clients across North America. For more information, visit www.spplus.com.

[Eyeing net zero emissions, Delhi airport deploys 57 electric vehicles](#)

Tribune India - Oct. 27, 2022

In its pursuit to achieve net zero carbon emission status by 2030, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), a GMR Airports Infrastructure Limited-led enterprise, has deployed 57 electric vehicles (EVs) at the airport and its vicinity. With this, the Delhi airport has become the first airport in the country to deploy EVs in the airport ecosystem.

These EVs have been deployed as a part of the unique Green Transportation Programme that the DIAL announced during the World Environment Day in June.

The EVs would help in reducing approximately 1,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

As a part of the Green Transportation Programme, the DIAL has initiated the adoption of electric vehicles and drive out all diesel and petrol-run vehicles in a phased manner. In the first phase, the DIAL has placed the order for 64 electric vehicles for its airside and landside operations. Of these, the DIAL has received 57 EVs and deployed them on the airside and landside. Seven more EVs would be deployed soon.

Of these 57 EVs, 21 would be deployed on the airside and would be used by airside operations, airport rescue & fire fighting and AGL teams, while the remaining 36 would be used by various departments, including environment, horticulture and cargo on the landside.

For smooth adoption of electric mobility at the airport ecosystem, the DIAL has also set up 12 charging stations with 22 charging points at the airport.

AIRPORT NEWS

[Sacramento International Airport public parking rates will increase for the first time in 5 years](#)

KCRA.com - Oct. 25, 2022

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- For the first time in five years, public parking rates at Sacramento International Airport will go up.

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously authorized a 5% increase per year over the next five years, starting at the beginning of 2023. [A report on the board's meeting agenda argues](#) that parking is already scarce at high-demand times at the airport and that it may run out of parking during the 2022 holiday season.

SMF parking rates are also lower than other airports in the Northern California area and have not kept up with inflation, the report states.

These are the current rates and what they could increase to over the next five years.

- Economy lot: \$10 per day currently, \$13.50 over the next five years
- Daily Lot: \$12 per day currently, \$15.75 over the next five years
- Garage Lot: \$18 per day currently, \$23.50
- Hourly Lot: \$29 currently, \$37.75 over the next five years

The funding would go toward five development projects — this includes more parking — for SMF as part of the Department of Airports' Airport Master Plan Update.

Below are the five main development projects detailed in the "SMForward" program.

- Ground Transportation Center between terminals A and B for commercial vehicles, including public transit buses, taxis, Uber, Lyft, hotel courtesy vehicles
- Second parking garage
- Pedestrian walkway between Terminal B and Concourse B
- Terminal and Concourse expansion of 5-8 gates
- Consolidated rental car facility

The project is expected to cost \$372,278,800. The report says parking the SMF's largest single source of non-airline revenue, estimated at 54%, and it accounts for 31% of all operating revenue in the airport's 2022 fiscal year.

Most of the projects are estimated to be completed by 2025.

GSP Airport ponders \$70M podcar system to shuttle passengers

The Post and Courier - Oct. 30, 2022

GREER — Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport is working on a plan to move travelers and employees around its Upstate campus via automated vehicles, which would run on a track separate from the airport's roads.

The proposal is in the final phase of study to determine the costs and details of the estimated \$70 million plan, which is expected to be considered by the airport commission in the next 12 to 18 months.

If built, the airport would become the first in North America with a fully-automated transportation network that uses small all-electric podcars, rather than shuttle buses or light rail, to ferry customers from economy parking lots to the airport terminal.

The airport first began to study the Automated Transit Network (ATN) in 2015 with a study of alternatives to gas-powered shuttle buses as it planned an expansion of its economy and employee parking lots. The airport next studied the feasibility of offering on-demand electric podcars in 2016 and was in the initial stages of a public-private partnership to move the project ahead in late 2019 before the coronavirus pandemic struck and brought airport traffic to a sudden halt.

The current study will determine how the airport can build dedicated roadways for the system of podcars -- including some elevated tracks -- and the cost to build and maintain the system, said Dave Edwards, GSP president and CEO.

The concept would connect the airport's two outlying economy parking lots and an employee parking lot to the terminal with the dedicated roadways. The podcars would carry up to 15 passengers using an on-demand model and would eliminate the airport's reliance on any rubber-tired vehicles to move customers or employees, Edwards said.

The airport hopes to pay for the system through federal grants available to airports and through parking revenue, Edwards said. It would cost about \$40 million to build and another \$30 million for the vehicles, he said.

The airport commission approved a project development agreement with Plenary Americas US Holdings, Inc. to plan and design the project and take bids for construction. The commission would make the final decision on whether to fund the project, he said.

"It's going to depend on costs. It's going to depend on funding that we can bring to the table from (grants) and the cost remaining," Edwards said. "We're pretty confident that we can have a project that we can move forward with at that juncture.

If approved, construction would begin in early 2024 and continue for two years, Edwards said.

Unlike self-driving vehicles, the podcars would not operate in mixed traffic and wouldn't use a guide rail like light rail train shuttle. Edwards was drawn to the system because it would offer a much faster service than electric buses and would reduce traffic at the airport terminal curb.

"We're not going to put in a system that doesn't operate better and more efficiently than a shuttle bus would today," he said.

While the airport hasn't committed to a vehicle yet, it has demonstrated a mid-size podcar at the airport and is designing its program around a vehicle by 2getthere, a Netherlands company recently purchased by ZF. German vehicle and industrial parts manufacturer ZF has a large plant in Gray Court, near the Greenville County line.

West Virginia University piloted an early foray into automated rapid transit with a rail-based podcar system that opened in 1975 as a research project. It remains in use today with about 15,000 daily passengers.

The first airport-based podcar system opened at London Heathrow Airport in 2011 connecting a terminal to a distant parking lot. Edwards visited the airport to evaluate the system. It was built using smaller Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) podcars designed to transport up to six passengers.

A handful of podcar networks have been developed worldwide in the years sign in places like Abu Dhabi, South Korea and Mexico but the system hasn't gained traction as a widespread mode of mass transit, said Peter Muller, president of PRT Consulting, a Denver-based firm that previously worked on a podcar feasibility study at GSP.

[Eppley Airfield express ramp allows for easy access to airport](#)

KETV.com - Oct. 26, 2022

OMAHA, Neb. — If you're in a rush to catch your flight, Eppley Airfield may have created a solution.

Eppley Airfield opened a new ramp, providing direct access to the third floor of the south parking garage. It offers travelers same-floor access to a walkway that connects to the departure level of the terminal.

An official with the Omaha Airport Authority says that the ramp construction and direct access walkway were made for travelers' convenience.

"Parkers will be completely covered and into climate-controlled walkways into the departures level of the terminal in no time at all," said Steve McCoy.

If you park on one of the other floors in the six-floor structure, you'll either have to take the elevator to the third floor or the first floor and then cross the street.

He says it's a great time to expand because air travel continues to bounce back in the metro.

"We're seeing travel come back for sure. Following the pandemic it was a slow recovery in the airline industry but we're seeing very strong passenger numbers here at Eppley Airfield and that's continuing to grow," McCoy said.

[Waymo AVs arrive at Phoenix](#)

Airports International - Nov. 2, 2022

Arizona's Phoenix Sky Harbor (PHX) is on track to be the first airport in the world to offer a Waymo rider-only autonomous vehicle service.

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport will become the first airport to offer travellers the chance to take a Waymo autonomous vehicle to and from the airport. Waymo (formerly the Google self-driving car project) is offering Trusted Tester participants the ability to take autonomous rides to and from downtown Phoenix and the airport with an autonomous specialist in the vehicle.

"Phoenix leads the nation in demonstrating autonomous vehicle technology, science, and safety," said Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego. "The future of travel is here, and the Waymo One service to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport marks our city's commitment to innovation and technological advancements that will impact the world."

Trusted Testers will be able to travel 24 hours, seven days a week in Waymo's fully electric Jaguar I-PACE equipped with the fifth generation Waymo Driver.

At present trips are offered with an autonomous specialist in the driver's seat. In the future, the specialist will be removed from the vehicle and the ability to hail lifts will begin to open up to the general public.

Pick-ups and drop-offs take place at the 44th Street PHX Sky Train Station where travellers can hop on the free PHX Sky Train direct to the terminals. Trains arrive and depart every few minutes.

This new service comes two years after Waymo opened its fully autonomous commercial ride hail service, Waymo One, to the public in the East Valley of Phoenix and builds on the company's partnership with the City of Phoenix, which includes providing rides to Trusted Testers in Downtown Phoenix since May.

[Orlando Airport launches new automated visual communication system](#) **Airport Technology** - Oct. 28, 2022

The Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, in collaboration with Synect, has [introduced](#) an automated visual communication system at Terminal C in Orlando International Airport (MCO), US.

The 1.8 million-square-foot Terminal C was opened last month.

The informational communications programme consists of a creative custom video from the Central Florida region. It will display dynamic and automatically updated travel information across the airport.

This visual communication system is said to play across 872 connected screens at the new terminal.

Terminal C also includes additional displays at the security area, gates, arrivals, customs and border protection ([CBP](#)), international and domestic baggage claim, ground transport and wayfinding route.

Synect's Passenger360 platform, which is already used at Terminals A and B, is used to manage the network. This automation is enabled by Passenger360's integration with MCO's airport operations centre ([AOC](#)).

The Passenger360 system will absorb changes made by the AOC and updates to airport activity, like flight schedules, wait times, weather, and potential emergencies, and quickly integrate into the massive visual communication network.

By automatically making thousands of updates per second to the dynamic informational content, the Passenger360 system can accommodate and reflect real-time airport activity.

Synect CEO Yahav Ran said: "The Orlando International Airport's Terminal C is a flawless example of how visual communication can transform airport communication and the passenger journey.

"We are grateful to the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority for their ongoing commitment to innovation along with their purposeful use of content and technology to delight passengers while helping them navigate the airport environment."

[Humboldt County Airport to partner with Lyft for ridesharing](#)

KRCRTV.com - Oct. 24, 2022

ARCATA, Calif. — The Humboldt County Aviation Department and Lyft announced Monday that a new partnership will offer rideshare services to and from the California Redwood Coast Humboldt County Airport (ACV).

The Board of Supervisors approved the collaboration at a recent meeting. For each ride, be it a pick-up or drop-off, the Department of Aviation will receive a \$2 fee.

"Expanding to ridesharing services with this new partnership with Lyft is an exciting step forward to better serve our passengers as we continue to work to expand air service at ACV," Director of Aviation for the County of Humboldt Cody Roggatz said.

The new service will join other services for passengers, such as taxis and shuttles to and from the airport.

Back in August 2021, the board approved Project SOAR, which would enhance ACV and allow the airport to collaborate with local rideshare services and taxi companies. Other services currently in discussion are expanded rental car services and increased airport parking capacity.

[Full Silver Line service expected to launch Nov. 15, Metro says](#)

Washington Business Journal - Oct. 31, 2022

The 11.4-mile extension of Metro's Silver Line will open to passengers on Nov. 15, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority announced Monday.

Metro announced the news in a tweeted video, showing a slew of transit and employees saying, "I'm ready" and "We're ready," in several languages, including American Sign Language.

The \$3 billion project has faced years of [delays](#). But on Nov. 15, Metro riders will finally have access to six new stations stretching between Fairfax and Loudoun counties: Reston Town Center, Herndon, Innovation Center, Dulles International Airport, Loudoun Gateway and Ashburn.

Last week, Metro officials indicated that they could launch the Silver Line extension [in time for Thanksgiving](#) after its safety watchdog, [the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission](#), greenlit the return of [more 7000-series trains](#) alongside frequent inspection and safety data.

"We are coordinating daily with the WMSC," Metro said in a statement. "We appreciate their collaboration and expect to finalize safety certification before we open for passenger service."

This is big news for passengers looking to leave Greater Washington for the holiday. Until the new service launches, D.C. travelers can only take Metro as far as Wiehle-Reston East and then catch a car or bus to the airport.

Jack Potter, the president and CEO of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, said the the Silver Line's opening was significant for a "transportation vision decades in the making." MWAA [oversaw the Silver Line's construction](#).

"The opening of Silver Line Metro service will have a major positive impact for Dulles International Airport, its passengers and the entire region," Potter said in an emailed statement to the Washington Business Journal. "The entire staff at Dulles Airport has been working hard to make preparations for opening day and will be ready for the commencement of rail service on November 15."

Loudoun and Fairfax counties had asked Metro for three weeks' notice before the Silver Line's opening date to prepare connecting buses and shuttles. That includes a [new free shuttle service](#).

[linkRTC](#), that will launch at the new Reston Town Center Metro station, a joint effort of Boston Properties Inc. (NYSE: BXP) and other property owners.

Loudoun County Transit is also adding and modifying 31 bus routes to connect parts of the county — as far west as Purcellville and as far south as East Gate — to four of the Metro stations. And the town of Herndon is working to add a new drop-off lane, bus shelters and a signalized crosswalk for passengers at the new Herndon Metrorail Pavilion.

The first phase of the Silver Line opened in 2014, connecting Falls Church with Wiehle-Reston East, through Tysons. The second phase, in addition to the six new stations, adds a 90-acre railyard at Dulles airport.

Capital Rail Constructors, a joint venture of Clark Construction Group and Kiewit Infrastructure South Co., led construction of the rail line and stations. Hensel Phelps Construction Co. built the new rail yard, which can store up to 168 rail cars and will have maintenance facilities to service the trains.

Metro has hired more than 468 employees to work the Silver Line extension.