



AGTA News from the Airport Curb



Look for AGTA "Let's Talk About It" Zoom Meetings to resume in 2022. Please contact Executive Director Ray Mundy with any topics you would like to see offered for AGTA's Zoom meetings in 2022.

GROUND TRANSPORTATION NEWS

[Deal alert: Earn 4 miles for every \\$1 spent on Lyft airport rides through the holidays](#)

The Points Guy - Dec. 15, 2021

Happy holidays from Lyft and Delta, whose recently expanded partnership means riders and fliers alike can take advantage of a special holiday deal with new in-app features, in addition to all Lyft users earning 4 miles for every \$1 spent on Lyft rides to or from any U.S. airport through Jan. 9, 2022.

Even if you usually opt to take Uber over Lyft, you may want to consider choosing Lyft for your airport transportation this holiday season. Travelers will earn 4 Delta SkyMiles for every \$1 spent on all Lyft rides to or from any U.S. airport starting Dec. 16, 2021, through Jan. 9, 2022.

Delta fliers should make sure to link your SkyMiles account to your Lyft account since the two are also expanding their four-year (and counting) partnership with the addition of new in-app features.

Lyft will roll out features to linked account members to receive reminders of upcoming travel with Delta through the Lyft app and via email, with important details such as a user's flight number, destination, departure/boarding time, terminal number and gate number, all within the Lyft app.

After the promo ends on Jan. 9, earnings will go back to 2 miles for every \$1 spent on airport rides and 1 mile for every \$1 spent on all other Lyft rides within the U.S.

First-time Lyft users can receive up to \$20 in Lyft ride credits in the form of two \$10 credits off the new user's "Eligible First Ride," defined as a new user's first and second Lyft rides completed within the United States and within 60 days of signing up as a new Lyft user.

[Airports give travelers stark parking warning ahead of holiday rush](#)

ABC News - December 2021

View ABC video warning [here](#).

[Massachusetts' taxi business sees hope after the pandemic shifts power in transportation](#)

GBH 89.7 - Dec. 15, 2021

When the first ride-sharing companies arrived on the scene almost a decade ago, many thought they would spell the end of the traditional taxi industry. Then, the pandemic struck, and there was little hope that taxis would even survive.

But it is now clear to drivers and owners that the pandemic actually provided an opportunity for taxis to adapt and potentially thrive. The industry benefited government grant money and less competition from ride-sharing services during the pandemic. Now, shifts in pricing and new technology that allows customers to call cabs, just as they do ride-shares, is feeding optimism.

It was the work taxis were doing just before the pandemic that ultimately helped them find a path forward. As their regular business was siphoned off by ride-share companies, taxis began providing non-emergency medical transportation for local residents. That service suddenly surged when the pandemic hit and the state stepped in to help, committing to doling out \$1 million in subsidies through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

"[The state] released a lot of grant money for programs such as vaccinations and getting people to grocery shopping and medical appointments that were necessity transportation [because] they were afraid to go on public transportation," Horan said.

Another upside for cabbies was the fact that many Uber and Lyft drivers stayed home during the pandemic, leaving taxis as the only alternative. Horan said that transporting people during the pandemic is what kept her company afloat.

The future appears to be brightening for Boston-area taxis, but even with hope in the air, there's still some uncertainty. And taxi drivers like Jose Rodriques know that, these days, you can't wait for the business to come to you.

"I don't like sitting around," Rodriques said. "That's why I don't play the airport. I do work the neighborhoods. People in the neighborhoods need taxis, and it's so busy you can go to Dorchester, Roxbury — everywhere, and you will be busy all day long."

He's also seeking out riders with apps like WAAVE that allow users to call cabs from their phone like Uber or Lyft.

Taxis are also benefitting from pricing shifts, said Paolo Santi, a principal research scientist at MIT's Senseable Cities Lab and board member at Massachusetts nonprofit Way Forward Taxi Alliance. Better prices are what drew so many customers to ride shares in the first place. That's changing.

But ride-sharing companies eventually had to raise rates to show a profit. Now, taxis are more competitive, something Rodriques has heard from his riders.

Another indication that the industry is on the upswing is seen in the buying and selling of taxi medallions — the city-issued permits that allow taxis to operate.

There has been a big transition in the ownership of taxis, according to Chenelle Brown, director of external affairs at Way Forward Taxi Alliance. Gone are the large taxi fleets of the past. Now, there are more individual owners.

Those medallions used to go for \$300,000 to \$400,000 each, but now they cost about \$18,000. The fact that medallions are being repurchased is a sign that some taxi drivers are optimistic they can make a go of it, Brown said.

[**Elon Musk's The Boring Co. submits proposal on SAT-to-downtown mobility project**](#)

KTSA.com - Dec. 15, 2021

A company owned by Elon Musk reportedly submitted a proposal to the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority for a project to transport San Antonio International Airport passengers to downtown San Antonio.

San Antonio Express-News reports that The Boring Company is one of five companies to bid on the project, proposing to building an underground loop that would see SAT passengers travel to downtown thanks to a fleet of Tesla vehicles.

Another one of the bidders, Praetor Capital, shared plans with the newspaper of their proposal that would employ autonomous, electric vehicles running on guide rails — above and below ground. The Utah-based company reportedly submitted multiple possible routes for travel from the airport to downtown.

According to the Praetor Capital plan, passengers would travel in the autonomous vehicles that seat up to eight people at speeds of up to 45 mph. The trip would reportedly last between 12.7 and 15.4 minutes and cost between \$6.50 to \$7.30 per ride. The vehicles would drop passengers off at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

According to Bexar County spokeswoman Monica Ramos, the RMA is currently reviewing proposals and are scheduled to start interviews on January 17 through 21 with plans to select the finalist by February 22. The Alamo RMA is an independent government organization created in 2003 by the Texas Transportation Commission and the Bexar County Commissioners Court with the goal of accelerating necessary transportation projects. The county commissioners appoint six of the members of the board of directors, with a seventh seat appointed by Governor Greg Abbott.

The Boring Co. opened a transportation loop beneath the Las Vegas Convention Center in June that includes three stations on 1.7 miles of tunnels and has the capacity to move more than 4,000 people per hour. The project reportedly cost \$52.5 million for taxpayers.

[**EVERYONE Needs Access to Reliable Charging in order to Transition to Electric Transportation**](#)

CleanEnergy.org - Dec. 15, 2021

A SACE staffer's personal experiences with an electric vehicle taught her that it is absolutely critical that utility and public investments center equity and make charging available for folks like her.

In April 2021, I was given the opportunity to drive a Nissan Leaf. Over the past 9 months, I have gone from an electric vehicle (EV) novice, knowing almost nothing about driving electric, to telling people all of my ups and downs about my experiences driving the Nissan Leaf. Below is a timeline summary of my progression.

This journey has brought me to the clear conclusion that despite the extensive benefits, without home charging, EV ownership is not practical for someone like me, and therefore, focusing utility and public investments on infrastructure that makes charging available for folks who live in apartments and park on residential streets is critical if we want to ensure an equitable transition to electric transportation.

The first major obstacle I encountered was I live in an apartment that doesn't offer me the opportunity to charge at home, which exacerbated my concerns. I am able to charge at work, though, and at public charging stations around town, so I took on the challenge of planning my trips carefully in order to maintain a charge.

From the little research I've done, it seems like progress is quick on that front. The 2022 Leaf (starting at \$27,400) has a range of 150 miles, and the 2022 Leaf S Plus (starting at \$32,400) has a range of 226 miles. Charging infrastructure is expanding rapidly, but we need to keep equity front and center as we move toward our electric future. This is the best and only way to make sure that those who have historically suffered the most from environmental and economic injustices are on the receiving end of these important benefits.

As EVs expand their share of the transportation market, the Southeast is poised to really rake in the benefits. Our region has the largest utilities, the most sunshine, and the greatest opportunity for electric cars, trucks, and busses. According to SACE and analysis, released in August, "Transportation Fuel Spending in the Southeast: Internal Combustion vs. Electric Vehicles," if all of our region's vehicle miles traveled were electric today, Southeast consumers would save \$42 billion annually on transportation fuel spending. Additionally, more than two-thirds of the dollars spent on electricity for transportation would stay in the region, keeping an extra \$5 billion recirculating through and supporting local economies. This means that by electrifying transportation in the Southeast, we could retain \$47 billion annually in our regional economy.

[All Aboard The Bus To Tweed](#)

New Haven Independent - Dec. 15, 2021

Here's the secret code to getting to the airport: As you board the 206, tell the bus driver you're heading to Tweed, so he'll know to make an extra stop.

Airport Authority Executive Director Sean Scanlon, Mayor Justin Elicker, and a handful of state and local transportation officials organized the trip to draw attention to the public transit route that can bring travelers from the city center to Tweed on the cheap and without the help of a single-occupancy car. The bus takes people from downtown to a Florida-bound flight in 20 minutes and for only \$1.75.

Elicker said that using the bus to get to the airport is a more environmentally friendly form of road travel, it lessens the amount of airport-related car traffic coming through the East Shore neighborhood, and it's more cost-effective than taking a ride share or a taxi.

So how exactly does one get from downtown New Haven to Tweed by public bus? CTtransit Administrator of Planning & Scheduling Barry Diggs explained that, for now, airport-bound bus travelers have to tell the 206 bus driver upon boarding the bus that they would like to be dropped off at Tweed New Haven Airport.

For anyone landing at Tweed and looking to take the bus back to downtown, Diggs said, they have to call the CTtransit customer service line at 203-624-0151 in advance to let the public bus service know that they'd like to be picked up at the airport.

Scanlon said one of his goals is to have Tweed made into a permanent, regular stop on the 206 route, if there is enough demand for it. He said he's spoken with the state Department of Transportation commissioner about just such a proposal.

Right now, the best way to make that train-to-bus-to-airport connection is to take the downtown shuttle bus from Union Station to the Green, and then pick up the 206 on Chapel Street.

In addition to touting the public-bus-to-airport route Wednesday, Scanlon also announced that Avelo Airlines — the new budget airline that kicked off direct Florida-bound flights from Tweed in early November — will be expanding its local service on Thursday from three flights per day to five flights per day.

Diggs said that, before Avelo started in November, CTtransit would get roughly 10 to 15 requests each month for a direct public bus pickup at Tweed. In November, he said, the public bus service got 75 such requests.

[Use STOW IT Monthly Parking this Holiday Season Near Austin Airport](#)

InForney - Dec. 15, 2021

This holiday season STOW IT, a Colorado-based start-up, has partnered with airport parking facilities in Austin to help you save money while you travel. Most airport parking facilities offer daily parking rates that quickly add up for long-term travel, but with STOW IT, they offer a more affordable option for long-term parking in Austin, Texas at the Austin Bergstrom International Airport.

STOW IT has partnered with airport parking operators all over the United States to help long-term travelers, second homeowners, individuals who travel for business, or any other reason you may be away from home for an extended period find and reserve a spot for their vehicle while they are away! STOW IT's monthly parking program is one of the only places where you can find the most affordable prices for airport parking with the rate at ABIA airport parking being \$215 a month for covered parking.

All the current parking facilities that STOW IT has partnered up with offer 24/7 shuttle services to and from the airport and security measures for your vehicle including security cameras and onsite staff. One of the best features that STOW IT offers is their monthly rate with no long-term commitment. You can choose your check-in and check out dates and do not have to sign any contract for how long you will need to stay.

If you are a long-term traveler in Austin or are traveling home for the holidays, you can make your reservation online through the STOW IT website, <https://stowit.com/airport-storage> ;

[Final Couple Of Weeks For Disney Magical Express, Mears Connect Launches Jan 1, 2022](#)

Theme Park Tourist - Dec. 14, 2021

In only just over two weeks, Disney Magical Express will cease to exist and Mears Connect will launch on January 1, 2022. This news was originally announced back in January 2021 to many Disney fans dismay.

Mears Connect will essentially be the same service as Disney Magical Express but guests will have to pay for it separately if they choose it rather than it being included in their Disney package. It will inevitably also lack the Disney sparkle which made Disney Magical Express so special. There are two options currently available for people to book with the following prices;

- **Standard Service** - One way trip and Round trips are being offered. Prices for one way trip are \$16 per adult and \$13.50 per child (aged 3-9). Prices for the round trip are \$32 for adults and \$27 per child.
- **Express Service** - Round trip only are being offered at this time. Prices are \$200 for up to 4 passengers. Additional passengers are \$55 each. There is no reduced child price for the Express Service.

If choosing the standard service guests will travel in a bus, van or small vehicle which will make a limited number of stops. You should leave the airport within 20 minutes of your check-in to the Mears Connect reservation area which is located on level 1, ground transportation level, in terminal B, at Orlando International Airport.

Don't get confused, the Express service is not considered to be private transport, it will still be in a bus, van or small vehicle and may be a shared service but you are guaranteed a direct service straight to your resort with limited wait time.

The Mears Connect website describes the experience as *"With Mears Connect, you will board a comfortable, spacious, safe motor coach bus, van or car at Orlando International Airport and we'll transport you and your luggage to your Walt Disney World Resort area hotel."* *"When you make a Mears Connect reservation, you can begin your vacation the moment you step off the plane. Guests can avoid the inconvenience and cost of driving or finding ground transportation. No expensive car rentals, tolls, gas and parking fees. And, say goodbye to rideshare surge pricing (which is quite common in Orlando.) You'll also enjoy a ride back to Orlando International Airport on the day you check out of your Disney Resort area hotel, just remember to make a round-trip reservation."*

Mears connect also promises Entertainment for you and your party while you ride and an arrival souvenir.

[Clear, Uber Team on Home to Airport Gate App](#)

PYMNTS.com - Dec. 14, 2021

Secure identity company Clear and Uber have partnered to integrate Uber's ride-hailing platform into Clear's Home to Gate feature to offer a more predictable air travel experience, according to a Tuesday (Dec. 14) press release.

Clear app users can use the integration to determine when they should leave for their flight and reserve an Uber ride ahead of time, the release stated.

Clear's Home to Gate app-based feature analyzes traffic data, security screening wait times and airport walking distance in the terminal and alerts travelers about when to leave their homes or hotels and arrive at the airport, according to the release. Clear also offers expedited airport lanes, biometric boarding, lounge access and more.

"We're thrilled to partner with Clear to alleviate some of the holiday travel stress," said Uber Head of Mobility for the U.S. and Canada Dennis Cinelli in the release. "As we look to a busy holiday season, we're focused on getting travelers where they need to go as quickly and easily as possible. Our integration with Clear will take the guesswork out of travel and give users peace of mind knowing they'll get to the airport on time."

[Anxious about airport parking? Here's what you'll pay for a spot in Miami and Broward](#)

Miami Herald - Dec. 14, 2021

Whatever the reason and you are driving to the Miami or Broward airports, you'll need to know about parking. Short-term. Long-term. In between.

Miami International Airport has two garages and a few charging stations for people with electric vehicles. It also has a cellphone parking lot just off LeJeune Road and Northwest 31st Street where people can park for free while waiting to hear from someone arriving at the airport for pickup. MIA usually has valet, too, but that's temporarily closed, according to the website.

If you park in one of the garages, expect to pay \$2 every 20 minutes. If your car is parked for more than 2 hours and 40 minutes, you'll be charged the maximum daily rate of \$17, according to the airport. Your car can stay in the garage up to 60 days, except where "no overnight" is listed. After 60 days, your car will be towed.

You can pay for parking at MIA with cash, checks (drawn on U.S. banks), American Express Traveler Checks, and credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover). You can also use SunPass Plus.

Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport has three garages and an overflow lot that opens at peak travel times during the holidays or when the garages are full (signs and workers lead you to it). There's a cellphone parking lot where people can park for free while waiting to pick someone up from the airport. FLL usually has curbside valet, too, but it's temporarily suspended.

If you park in Hibiscus Garage Level 2 or Palm Garage Level 1, it costs \$3 per hour, with a maximum of \$36 per day. If you park in Hibiscus Garage Levels 3-7, Palm Garage Levels 2-4 and Cypress Garage Levels 7-9, it costs \$3 per hour, with a maximum of \$15 per day.

If you end up having to park in the overflow lot, expect to pay \$10. You can pay for FLL parking with cash, checks (starter checks not accepted), and credit cards (MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover, and Diner's Club). You can also use SunPass Plus.

TIP: Use the FLL app to see real-time parking availability and to help locate your car if you forget where you parked.

[How To Save Money on Your Car Rental During the Holiday Season](#)

Newsweek - Dec. 14, 2021

Starting early and looking for anything from rewards programs to bundle deals are great ways for consumers to save on rental cars this holiday season.

"The most important thing that holiday travelers can do is to plan ahead and book their rental as early as possible," said Jonathan Weinberg, CEO of AutoSlash, a site dedicated to helping travelers find the best deals on rental cars.

The car rental industry has a bit more flexibility than hotels or airlines which renters can use to their advantage. Some rental cars can be booked with a "pay-later" rate that does not include credit card information meaning customers can lock in a lower rate early while continuing to shop around for better prices.

As much as it can be managed, renters should avoid booking their car rentals at the airport. Although it may be more convenient to rent at the airport, according to [Tripsavvy](#), a vacation planning site, airport car rental prices are higher on average than what can be found off the airport's property.

Enrolling in a rental rewards program is also a good way to cut costs according to [Finance Buzz](#), a financial independence site. Many rental car companies have rewards programs that give travelers upgrades and lower daily costs.

Bundling your flight with hotel and/or car rentals are supposed to be designed to save renters money, but make sure to crunch your own numbers as it may actually make the car rentals cost more on their own.

Although purchasing auto insurance is not technically a money saver, it is a preventative way to save in case of an accident which can be pretty expensive on its own. There are several types of rental insurance including liability coverage, personal accident insurance, collision or loss damage waivers and personal effects coverage.

[Albany International Airport adds new EV charging stations](#)

News 10 - Dec. 14, 2021

Albany International Airport has added 16 new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. This brings the total number of EV charging stations at the airport to 32.

The airport said the electricity generated by its 141 solar panels will help to offset the power necessary to operate the charging stations. The Level 2 stations provide vehicles with up to 25 miles of electric range for each hour they are charging. All EV charging stations are free to use by Albany International Airport travelers.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority approved funding for the 16 EV Connect Level 2 chargers through Charge Ready NY. National Grid installed the chargers.

The new charging stations are fully operational at Million Air, the airport's fixed base operator, and have also been installed in the airport's long term parking lot, west of the parking garage.

The airport said it has updated its online EV locator services and increased signage to direct drivers to available charging stations in all of the parking garages and ground level parking lots.

[Uber and Lyft too expensive at LAX? You have options](#)

LA Times - Dec. 11, 2021

Bomani Mintz walked out of baggage claim at LAX during Thanksgiving weekend and was greeted with sticker shock. His five-mile Uber ride home to Marina del Rey was going to be \$50.

"The taxi market is making a comeback the way Uber/Lyft prices are \$10+ a mile coming from LAX," he tweeted.

Mintz said he has flown into LAX once a month in the past three months but never before considered using a cab to get home, until now. The ride cost him \$30.

Uber and Lyft said they consider several factors when estimating a fare. For example, Uber considers time of day, distance and route — prices are adjusted for shared rides and demand. Lyft factors in route, type, availability and demand.

So if you're used to using a rideshare app to leave LAX but don't like the price or timing for a solo ride, here are some alternatives.

The cab line is always there, and even though there is a wait time, there are plenty of cab drivers making the rounds at LAX. You can catch a cab at LAX-it next to Terminal 1, inside Parking Structure 3, and at the far end of Terminal 7.

Public transit: Yes, you can take the bus. Several providers serve LAX, including Metro, Culver CityBus, Big Blue Bus, Torrance Transit and Beach Cities Transit.

LAX provides a free shuttle to the LAX City Bus Center. The shuttle is under the LAX Shuttle & Airline Connections sign on the Lower/Arrivals Level. You'll want to board the Lot South/LAX City Bus Center shuttle. The shuttle does not run from 2 to 4 a.m.

Major airport hotels provide courtesy transportation from LAX terminals, so call your hotel and ask about their shuttles.

FlyAway: This is a bus service that takes you between LAX and Union Station or Van Nuys. A one-way trip is \$9.75. Information about tickets and schedules can be found on the FlyAway website.

If you drive, you can book and prepay for a parking spot ahead of your trip. From your reserved parking spot, take the free shuttle to your terminal.

[Community group sees automated vehicles in airport transportation future](#)

Atlanta Journal -Constitution - Dec. 10, 2021

For more than three years now, a group of property owners near the airport has been pushing its vision of the future of transportation around Hartsfield-Jackson: small automated vehicles that whisk people throughout the area.

To nurture that idea, the group — ATL Airport Community Improvement Districts — hosted a Podcar City conference on Thursday and Friday, drawing together planners, academics and developers that specialize in autonomous vehicles and podcars.

The organization's executive director, Gerald McDowell, said he now expects to start a financial feasibility study with MARTA next year, with an eye on soliciting proposals in 2023 from companies that would be interested in developing and building the system.

An initial feasibility study suggested a corporate crescent circulator transit line between the domestic terminal and international terminal.

But the vision has since been expanded to include South Fulton and Clayton County, with a larger route network that could draw in residents and workers across a wide swath of the south metro area.

McDowell is trying to find funding for the personal rapid transit system. He's been meeting with elected officials and others to explore the possibility of federal infrastructure money, state funds, county funds or private investment in a public-private partnership — or working with the airport, Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority or MARTA.

He said fares would be designed to cover operations and maintenance costs. He estimated fares for transit around the airport would be comparable to MARTA and could be higher in the broader region. The idea would be to cost less than an Uber or Lyft ride, he said.

[Study: Shifting to EVs Won't Save Our Planet without Creating 'Compact' Cities](#)

Streets Blog -Dec. 10, 2021

The respected Institute for Transportation and Development Policy says that only full electrification of cars —

and more importantly, the expansion of public transit and the development of “compact cities” that encourage residents to get out from behind the wheel — will reduce travel-induced greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas by 80 percent over the next 30 years.

The alternative gets people out of their cars by guaranteeing they live in walkable, bikable utopias where they can get to work, go shopping, or grab a bite to eat without having to travel more than 15 minutes from their home.

In the United States, that means reshaping cities like Houston or Dallas to grow up instead of out, trading sprawl for dense, mixed-used centers that don't require expensive cars to get around. And in rapidly growing areas in Asia, Africa and South America, it demands getting ahead of development there to ensure it doesn't, for lack of a better term, go off the rails.

According to the study, urban passenger transport was responsible for 10 percent of all of humankind's greenhouse gas emissions worldwide in 2015, and that number will only grow if nothing is done — setting us down a path for climate disaster. It predicted that electrification of cars alone will help, as would the development of compact cities alone, but only the two together would come close to hitting the emission goals set by the 2015 Paris Climate Accord.

At the turn of the 20th century, before America was rebuilt to accommodate cars, transportation infrastructure in cities featured clean multi-passenger electric trains and trolleys — not single-passenger cars and trucks.

“Los Angeles is a classic example of a city where there was so much investment in rail, and they took it all away,” she said. “We need to go back to the development patters we originally started with.”

[Rapid City Regional Airport could see an increases in ground transportation fees](#)

NewsCenter1TV.com - Dec. 9, 2021

Getting a ride to and from Rapid City Regional Airport may soon cost more.

The board of directors has proposed new fees for ground transportation. It would include a \$200 fee for transport companies to operate, \$2 for vehicles carrying one to eight people, and \$4 for vehicles seating nine to 15 people.

Also included would be an increase to short-term parking, from \$1 to \$2 per half hour.

"So if you've got a Lyft bringing you to the facility or a taxi cab or a shuttle, those items are the items that would be assessed this fee," Rapid City Regional Airport Executive Director Patrick Dame explained. "As part of their business operation that they are running to make money, based on operating here at the airport."

The plan goes before the airport board later this month, then to the Legal and Finance Committee and the Common Council.

[Charlottesville Albemarle Airport expanding taxi service](#)

CBS 19 News - Dec. 9, 2021

The Charlottesville Albemarle Airport is allowing multiple taxi providers to do walk-up services starting next Monday.

The airport says the reason for this decision is the increase in air travel and CHO wants to reduce the amount of wait time for a taxi.

In order for your business to take part, you will need your license and your permit, when going through CHO's taxi inspections.

"COVID has made it a little more difficult to have as many taxis as we need, especially with traffic returning, as the pandemic is starting to settle a little bit and with that," said Stewart Key, the marketing specialist at CHO. "We're just opening up and allowing other taxi services to come to the terminal."

[Mallaghan Launches New All-Electric Airport Bus](#)

Aviation Pros - Dec. 8, 2021

Mallaghan, a leading manufacturer of airport ground support equipment (GSE), has launched its new electric airport bus.

The all-electric Árbus has already completed successful trials with ABM Aviation.

Owen McKenna, sales director at Mallaghan, said: "We are delighted to formally launch the all-electric Árbus i-tec following its successful trials with ABM in the UK, and to be supporting the wider aviation industry on its journey to Net-Zero.

"The all-electric Árbus has the longest battery range of any airport bus on the European market and can be easily charged with existing infrastructure at airports.

"The flexible battery capacity makes the bus suitable for use at smaller regional airports or major hubs.

"At present we have three models of Árbus dimensions, with capacity right up to 118 passengers – the largest airport bus capacity currently on the market.

Mallaghan GSE is already used in more than 100 countries across the world with its electric i-tec portfolio designed to support Ground Handling, Cargo Handling, Passenger Transportation, Aircraft Catering & Cleaning and Aircraft Maintenance for its aviation partners across the world.

AIRPORT NEWS

[O'Hare International Airport Is Travelers' Favorite](#)

Chicago.gov - Dec. 15, 2021

The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is proud to share that Global Traveler (GT) magazine has named O'Hare International Airport as the "Best Airport in North America" for the 18th consecutive year and "Best Airport Dining" for the

second consecutive year. The travel and lifestyle magazine for international business travelers revealed their Reader Survey winners at an awards reception held last night in Los Angeles.

"O'Hare Airport is a premier, world-class airport that continues to grow and modernize for the future of travel," said Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot. "I'm thrilled that our travel experience, from food to efficiency, has been recognized by Global Traveler's readers, and I look forward to the continued improvements at both our city's airports."

Recently the Airport Transit System (ATS) reopened for service to and from Terminals 1, 2, 3 and 5, as well as the Multi-Modal Facility (MMF) for rental cars, Economy Parking Lot F, Kiss 'n' Fly, Pace buses and Metra. Further, amenities like the Fly with Butch O'Hare Family Lounge in Terminal 2 and the Yoga Room in Terminal 3 have reopened for passengers to enjoy.

O'Hare airport is also proud to offer a variety of food, beverage and retail concessions, with new low-touch operations and vending machines opening soon.

"Congratulations to Chicago O'Hare International Airport for winning "Best Airport in North America" and "Best Dining Airport" in the 2021 voting," said Francis X. Gallagher, publisher and CEO, FXExpress Publications, Inc. "These awards are for multiple years, which shows great stability. It is a testament to the fine service and concessions at O'Hare. I look forward to my next trip to the city, when I can once again experience the award-winning airport."

[Vegas welcomes a new name: Harry Reid International Airport](#)

Nevada Appeal - Dec. 15, 2021

Former U.S. Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada didn't attend a renaming ceremony Tuesday making him the namesake of the busy international airport in Las Vegas, but praise was heaped upon him for his foresight and state infrastructure advocacy.

"He knew it was the gateway to boosting tourism," Carlos Monje, U.S. transportation undersecretary, told family members, elected leaders and administrators gathered at the facility known since December 1948 as McCarran International Airport.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported the 82-year-old Reid and his wife, Landra, decided not to attend because of the ongoing threat of COVID-19. Reid was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2018. Landra Reid is a cancer survivor.

Harry Reid served in the U.S. Senate for 30 years, including eight years as Democratic majority leader from 2007 to 2015. He was the longest-serving senator in Nevada history when he retired in 2017. He also served from 1983 to 1987 in the U.S. House of Representatives. In a statement, the native of Searchlight recalled his first airplane ride at the airport in 1958 and his more than three decades of trips home from Washington.

"I worked hard during my years in Congress to help build and grow the airport, and it is a source of tremendous pride to me," Reid said in the statement. "It is the indispensable ingredient to Las Vegas' success; it's the gateway through which millions come from every corner of the world to see our city, which is like no other place on earth."

Clark County now owns the airport and elected local lawmakers voted unanimously in February to make the name change after years of advocacy led by Clark County Commissioner Tick Segerblom.

Officials have said the expected \$7.2 million cost to rename the airport is being privately raised, with some \$3 million still to come to be used for changing signs and markers from curb to gate at the airport, and for vehicle decals, uniforms and administrative costs.

[Lufthansa Airlines bringing nonstop flights from St. Louis to Germany](#)

KSDK.com 5 On Your Side - Dec. 14, 2021

Lufthansa Airlines is preparing for takeoff in St. Louis. The airline will soon have direct flights out of St. Louis Lambert International Airport to Germany.

Lufthansa will operate nonstop flights to the airline's hub at Frankfurt Airport starting in June 2022. The schedule includes three flights per week on board Airbus A330 planes.

St. Louis County Executive Sam Page said the new partnership will strengthen St. Louis' ties to Europe, and Mayor Tishaura Jones added that it'll help connect the world to St. Louis.

"You might look at what happened during the loss of international travel from TWA," said Ray Mundy. "We lost a number of major companies and their headquarters here in St Louis due to the fact that our service was not as direct to Europe as it once was."

Mundy is the former director of the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He's currently the executive director of the Airport Ground Transportation Association.

Mundy said the addition of the Frankfurt route could lead to increased competition and more destinations, saying "nothing draws more airlines in your market other than success."

Right now, St. Louis is the largest American market without nonstop service to Europe.

Leaders Tuesday afternoon touted how the destination in Germany will make it even easier for St. Louis area residents to connect to destinations around the world. Frankfurt Airport is a hub for high-speed trains that travel throughout Europe. Lufthansa also has connecting flights to more than 155 other destinations from its Frankfurt hub.

[Governor Hochul Announces Plan to Build World-Class \\$9.5 Billion International Terminal at JFK Airport](#)

Governor Kathy Hochul - Dec. 13, 2021

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has reached a revised agreement with The New Terminal One (NTO) - a consortium of financial sponsors - to build a 2.4 million square foot state-of-the-art new international terminal that will anchor the south side of John F. Kennedy International Airport. The \$9.5 billion project will be built in phases and will create more than 10,000 jobs, becoming the fourth major terminal project announced by the Port Authority as part of a complete transformation of JFK into a world-class airport worthy of New York and the region. When completed, The New Terminal One will be the largest international terminal at JFK and aspires to be among the top rated airport terminals in the world.

The Port Authority Board of Commissioners will vote on the proposed lease agreement at its meeting this Thursday. The full cost of the terminal will be privately financed by the NTO consortium which includes financial partners Carlyle, JLC Infrastructure, and Ullico. A joint venture of Munich Airport International and CAG Holdings is the operating and technical services partner to the consortium.

As part of the project, the Port Authority will undertake a number of infrastructure upgrades and improvements including roads, parking, and utilities including a new electrical substation. The New Terminal One will be built on the sites of the current undersized and outdated Terminal 1, the aging and obsolete 59-year-old Terminal 2, and the site of the former Terminal 3, which was demolished in 2013. Construction of the new terminal is scheduled to begin in mid-2022 and the first phase, including the new arrivals and departures hall and first set of new gates, is expected to open in 2026.

The passenger facilities at The New Terminal One will feature significantly larger check-in, security and concessions areas with high ceilings, natural light and modern architecture coupled with interior green space, exhibits and art featuring iconic New York landmarks and local artists. World-class retail, restaurants and bars will include locally inspired restaurateurs, craft beverage options and Taste NY stores. Free, high-speed Wi-Fi and an abundance of charging stations throughout the terminal will enable passengers to stay connected at each step of their journey.

State-of-the-art technology will further improve the customer experience and security in the new terminal including elements such as touchless passenger journey, digital passenger flow and queue management, TSA security lanes featuring the latest technology, advanced video search analytics, biometric-based systems and a flexible design to accommodate future technology and/or regulatory changes.

Sustainability enhancements will include the use of renewable energy technologies such as a solar hot water, aircraft de-icing and fluid recovery, and the conversion of diesel ground service equipment to electric-powered ground service fleet across the airport - such as baggage tractors and belt loaders

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