

AGTA News from the Airport Curb for the week of 2/3/22.



## AGTA News from the Airport Curb



### AGTA Resumes In-Person Meetings - May 8 - 11 in San Diego

The AGTA Spring 2022 Conference is scheduled for **May 8 -11, 2022** in San Diego at the San Diego Mission Valley Hilton Hotel. You can expect to see sessions on how airports and ground operators are recovering from the recent difficult years and what new services, technologies, and innovations we might see in the near future. Airports and ground transportation providers are gearing back up with new safety, alternative fuels, and consumer-oriented ideas and operations. This San Diego conference will provide a chance to get in on the ground floor of airports today, and to learn firsthand about current successes, as well as what to avoid, given your colleagues' experiences.

[Click here to view a Preliminary Meeting Agenda](#)

[Online Meeting and Hotel Registrations](#) are available starting today! Save \$100 on your AGTA registration if you are registered by April 8.

**Zoom Meeting Information:**

**Next Meeting:** February 16, 3:00 Eastern  
***Airport parking lot thefts and vandalism -- What we can do about it***

Join us on Wednesday, February 16 at 3:00 Eastern as guest airport officials and industry security experts address this increasing issue for airports and parking concessionaires. Presenters will discuss the ways both on- and off-airport parking and car rental companies can and should provide security for parked autos. Mark your calendar now and join us for this informative discussion about a growing problem at many of our airports.

In case you missed AGTA's Zoom meeting from Jan. 19, 2022 where we heard presentations from Uber and Lyft on their plans for airports as we emerge from this long pandemic., you can view a recording of the session by clicking on the following link and entering the passcode provided below.

[1/19/22 Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting Passcode: 49+V

## GROUND TRANSPORTATION NEWS

[Charlotte Douglas airport changes parking policies, cutting down on free time](#)

**The Charlotte Observer** - Feb. 2, 2022

Parking at Charlotte Douglas International Airport may have gotten more expensive for travelers once again, following a price jump in June. Now, travelers will have less free time in the airport's hourly deck — just 15 free minutes before parking fees kick in at \$6 an hour, with a \$24 daily maximum fee. After the first 15 minutes, the first \$6 charge covers the remainder of that hour, according to the airport.

Previously, the first hour of parking in the hourly deck was free.

Designated handicap parking spots remain available on the curb front with access into the terminal building, according to the airport. And the airport's cell phone lot — where drivers can park while waiting to pick up a passenger from an arriving flight before driving to the terminal curb — remains free.

Over the last year, the airport served 43 million travelers, up 59% from the 27 million passengers who traveled through the Charlotte airport in 2020.

Last year's tally is 86% of the record-breaking 50.2 million passengers who traveled to, from and through CLT in 2019, according to the airport. And the airport predicts it could make a full recovery in passenger numbers by 2023 — a year earlier than previously predicted.

[10 Ways to Increase Your Rideshare Revenue](#)

**Fit Free Press** - Feb. 2, 2022

You want to make sure that you can maximize any time you're not on the road, so look at what other things need doing before leaving. This might be helping passengers with their luggage or checking in new arrivals. You could also offer to take people into town if they need somewhere to stay the night or use some downtime while waiting for pick-ups by offering free water and snacks. The more ways you earn money when not driving, the better!

If you live far away from where people are picked up, charge them a fee if they want to be dropped off close to home rather than dropped at the pick-up point. You might also consider charging extra for

long or difficult journeys that require you to go out of your way—check with your insurance company that it is alright to do this beforehand.

Offer to do odd jobs for passengers while you wait around. This could be anything from picking up a few things from the supermarket across the street to taking people's luggage into their room when they check in, or even sitting at their desk and sending personal emails for them.

Offering free water and snacks is a great way to keep your passengers happy when you're on a long journey! However, it can also be a good idea to offer premium brands in place of the free ones if they want something specific. If you have multiple passengers in a car, perhaps offer to bring them each a bottle of their preferred brand. You might even consider selling water or snacks to your passengers; it can be a good idea to stock up on some beforehand.

Make sure that tip is included when paying for food orders in advance online

If a passenger does this, do your best to ensure that they receive their food as quickly as possible. They might reward you for your work with a tip, which is always nice!

Wash and vacuum your car throughout the week. This will help keep it clean and tidy, which will reflect well on you as a driver. If they see that your vehicle is clean inside and out, then they might tip you more and tip more often, too.

Offering passengers a place to store their things while you drive can be a great way to ensure that they tip you. You can also charge a small fee for this service—just be sure that you're allowed to do it by your insurance company first!

If you're driving someone who has their job on the line, then offering them free Wi-Fi might just save their lives. They might tip you more in appreciation for this service, which will almost certainly be appreciated.

It's not necessarily your responsibility to provide car or booster seats, although many countries require them by law. However, if you can provide these, then offering a car seat to the parents of young children is a great way to get extra tips.

Get customers from airports. This should be an obvious one if you spend a lot of time driving people from the airport, but it's always worth remembering that people who are dropped at or picked up from airports often have a lot of money on them after a long flight. This makes it an excellent opportunity to make some extra cash!

### [How to Avoid Long Lines at Rental Car Counters](#)

**St. Louis Post Dispatch-** *Feb. 2, 2022*

Unfortunately, we aren't quite through the worst crunch of the rental car recovery. Hertz's average American fleet size was still 34% smaller in fall 2021 than in fall 2019, and Hertz can't make up that 200,000-vehicle difference overnight. Add in staffing shortages and the upcoming holidays, and conditions are ripe for long wait times to become a serious problem once again.

If you want to be among the many who cruise past the check-in counter to grab their keys and go, be sure to:

1. Sign up for rental car loyalty programs
2. Get rental car elite status through credit cards or airline/hotel elite status
3. Check in online before arriving

4. Rent at an off-airport location
5. Use a peer-to-peer car rental service

Most rental car companies offer so many ways to avoid long lines at their check-in counters that it's a wonder there are lines at all. At many airports, rental car companies allow loyalty program members to skip the counter just by including their number in the reservation. Other rental companies let renters check in online to avoid the counter.

#### **[Bus service between NYC and Stewart Airport restored](#)**

**Times Union** - Feb. 1, 2022

With the first international flights coming to New York Stewart International Airport (SWF) since 2019 comes restored SWF Express bus service between the mid-Hudson Valley airport and the Port Authority Bus Terminal in midtown Manhattan.

The restored, steady service is timed to the announcement that Iceland-based low-cost carrier Play Airlines will begin offering flights between Stewart and Iceland starting in July.

The bus service now gives New York residents a steady second public transportation option for traveling to Stewart for flights. A \$1 shuttle service from the Metro-North train station in Beacon operates Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 8:25 p.m.

The Stewart Airport Express bus is the only direct transit link between the airport and New York City. The 55-seat coaches offer WiFi and room for luggage. A one-way ticket is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, and can be booked online in advance or at the airport.

Stewart Airport is mounting a comeback after a challenging couple of years as many airlines grounded flights in the pandemic. Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport, this past year launched a marketing campaign and five-point strategic plan to incentivize carriers to come to Stewart, and to expand airport services. Stewart contributes \$145 million in economic activity to the region and supports more than 800 jobs and \$53 million in annual wages.

#### **[Aberdeen Airport announces increase in drop-off zone fees](#)**

**The Press and Journal** - Jan. 31, 2022

The latest rise in the charges has been implemented as part of the airport's recovery strategy to recoup some of the cash lost to coronavirus in the last two years.

From February 1, drivers passing through the express zone at the front of the terminal will be charged £1 extra to use the facility for a 10-minute period.

The £4 fee will, however, be waived for electric vehicles owners, who will be able to access the facility free of charge for the first 10 minutes.

There will be no changes to the arrangements currently in place for blue badge holders, who will continue to be entitled to a free 30-minute period at the short-stay car park.

The long-stay car park will also continue to offer travellers half an hour of free parking, with an on-demand shuttle bus available as an alternative option.

Mr Beveridge added the increased drop-off fee is the first of a series of measures to be introduced at the airport as part of their long-term strategy post-Covid.

He said: "It will take years for the airport to return to pre-Covid levels, with current impact on our airport resulting in the loss of over two million passengers, key routes and over 400 jobs.

The drop-off fee at the airport's express zone has now been set at £4 for the first 10 minutes – with motorist being charged an extra £6 if they stay over for another 20 minutes.

This is the third increase in the controversial fees in the last six years – with charges first doubling to £2 in 2016, and later rising further to £3 in 2019.

### [Private Ground Transportation Now Available As Disney World Package Add-On](#)

**The Disney Information Channel** - Jan. 31, 2022

Private ground transportation between Orlando International Airport (MCO) and Walt Disney World Resort is now available as a package add-on.

There are several options available including exclusive vans, sedans, SUVs, executive limousines, and stretch limousines. This private, direct ground transportation can be booked up to five days prior to your arrival.

Round-trip transportation from Orlando International Airport to a Walt Disney World Resort hotel can be added to your package by your Dreams Unlimited Travel agent.

Additionally, one-way and round-trip ground transportation is available to and from Tampa International Airport, Sanford International Airport, Orlando Amtrak Station, Kissimmee Amtrak Station, Cape Canaveral, Vero Beach, Daytona, and the guest's hotel. Your travel agent can assist with these options as well.

Up to one complimentary car seat will be available for children five years old and under, with additional car seats subject to availability.

### [Airport EV stations, speed humps up for approval this week in Augusta](#)

**The Augusta Chronicle** - Jan. 31, 2022

Airport charging stations for electric vehicles and a new speed hump policy are set to go for approval this week by the Augusta Commission. Meanwhile, Monday is the final day for VaxUp! Augusta.

Tuesday, the commission is expected to give a final OK to installing electric vehicle charging stations at Augusta Regional Airport. BETA Technologies is providing the stations and Georgia Power has agreed to install infrastructure to support them.

Locations will be at the west end of the employee parking lot, at the south end of the short-term parking lot and at the general aviation airport for private aircraft. Installing the stations ahead of the Masters Tournament, set for April 4-10, was one of the airport's goals.

### [Philadelphia International Airport is poised to cut ties with PPA after nearly 50 years](#)

**Philadelphia Inquirer** - Jan. 30, 2022

The Philadelphia Parking Authority's four-decade reign over airport parking operations could come to an end within a year, cutting into a significant chunk of the authority's operations and putting about 100 agency jobs on the line.

Last week, the city's Department of Aviation paid off more than \$54 million in PPA bonds related to the airport parking garages, effectively giving the airport full control of its own sprawling parking garage complex, which the PPA has operated since the mid-1970s.

The PPA now holds an 11-month agreement to run the garages while airport officials launch a competitive hunt to find a new operator. Redfern said airport officials are excited to develop a new parking program soon and are "looking forward to working with the PPA during the transition."

Unless the parking authority wins a competitive bid to become the airport's next parking operator, it will get the boot sometime in 2022.

Spokesperson Marty O'Rourke said the agency plans to apply once the airport requests proposals for a new parking operator, aiming "to protect family-sustaining jobs for our dedicated employees that provide excellent service at the airport."

At the same time, airport officials have been eyeing a new future for the once-lucrative parking spaces.

The airport closed its popular, \$13-a-day economy parking lot at the beginning of the pandemic, removing about 7,100 parking spaces. While originally billed as a temporary closure, it became permanent last year. Officials announced plans to redevelop the site to expand cargo shipping services — part of a multiyear plan to lure more shipping business to the airport.

### [Self-flying taxi developer Wisk secures US\\$450 million Boeing investment](#)

**The Moodie Davitt Report** - Jan. 25, 2022

Wisk, developer of the first all-electric, self-flying air taxi in the US, has received US\$450 million in new funding from The Boeing Company.

This investment will further advance the development of Wisk's sixth generation electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, which is the first-ever candidate for certification of an autonomous, all-electric, passenger-carrying aircraft in the US.

In addition, the funding will support the company as it enters what it describes as "an intensive growth phase" over the next year, as it prepares for the launch of scale manufacturing, and go-to-market efforts.

In announcing the fresh investment, Wisk – founded in 2010 as Zee Aero – stated its aim that within five years following the certification of its sixth generation aircraft, it intends to operate one of the industry's largest fleets of advanced air mobility (AAM) eVTOL aircraft.

Boeing Chief Strategy Officer Marc Allen said: "With this investment, we are reconfirming our belief in Wisk's business and the importance of their work in pioneering all-electric, AI-driven, autonomous capability for the aerospace industry.

### [Catalytic converter thefts at Sacramento International Airport lead to two arrests](#)

**The Sacramento Bee** - Jan. 23, 2022

The theft of catalytic converters from vehicles parked at Sacramento International Airport on Thursday led to the arrest of two suspects, according to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.

In a news release, the Sheriff's Office said that the thefts took place about 11:40 a.m. An airport dispatcher viewing security camera footage alerted deputies that suspects were seen looking underneath vehicles in the airport's economy parking lot.

Responding deputies found two suspects driving in the parking lot. After stopping them, the deputies said they found four catalytic converters in the vehicle, including the one seen being stolen on camera. Several tools often used in catalytic converter thefts also were found, according to the Sheriff's Office.

### [New contactless parking payment at Reid International Airport – Las Vegas, Nevada](#)

**Eminetra.com** -Jan. 23, 2022

Travelers are now able to use the new contactless parking rates at Harry Reid International Airport.

Staff have installed new parking payment machines in Terminal 1 Garage and Economy Lot. At these kiosks, drivers can now pay parking fees using tap-paying cards and mobile devices.

The garage has a limited number of machines that accept cash.

In 2021, Reid International Airport served 39.7 million travelers as the number of visitors increased from the lowest pandemic-related levels. A steady increase in more than 17 million travelers compared to the previous year in 2020, the Clark County Civil Aviation Bureau announced on Wednesday.

### [Labor agency bucks courts to attack independent workers](#)

**The Hill** - Jan. 22, 2022

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) recently took steps toward redefining who is an independent contractor and who is an employee. The move could limit self-employment options, making it harder for independent contractors to work for themselves. The change also would clear the way for unions to organize these workers, since entrepreneurs would get swept under the same legal status as employees. And that's likely the real motivation.

Biden's National Labor Relations Board isn't the first to target independent workers. The board under President Barack Obama also tried limiting self-employment options, and federal courts rebuked it — not once, but twice.

Biden's National Labor Relations Board is stepping in right where the highly criticized Obama board left off. Rather than aiming for consistency, it's aiming for outcomes. In this instance, those outcomes would benefit the same organized labor executives who backed Biden's presidential campaign.

The move signals that union interests may be driving decision-making through regulation, rather than legislation — an unsettling prospect. And if true, it also exposes the board's apparent willingness to thumb its nose at decades of established law, which is no small matter.

The National Labor Relations Board must aim for consistency. It must respect its history. And it must restrain its reach to the boundaries defined by Congress. When partisanship blinds board members' judgment, it's not just the agency's reputation that suffers. America's independent workers also get hurt.

# AIRPORT NEWS

## [LaGuardia Airport Terminal B construction is finally completed](#)

**Aviacionline.com** - Feb. 2, 2022

LaGuardia Airport (LGA) has completed the transformation of the passenger facilities at its Terminal B, finalizing a \$4 billion redevelopment project.

Terminal B includes 1.35 million square feet of new facilities and features 35 gates, a 3,000-car parking garage and new cab and car-sharing facilities. It also offers a wide variety of stores that provide customers with an enhanced travel experience.

One of the most notable architectural elements of Terminal B is the dual pedestrian skybridges, 482 feet long and rising 60 feet from the ground.

In 2015, new plans to rebuild at LaGuardia Airport (LGA) were unveiled with the goal of providing a world-class experience for travelers.

In February 2018, the new parking garage and dedicated level for Uber, Lyft and other ride-hailing services opened. In December of the same year, the first of 18 new gates opened.

In August 2020, a second new concourse opened its first gates in Terminal B, followed by additional gates in December 2021. Terminal B recently received UNESCO's Prix Versailles 2021, the world prize for architecture and design.

## [The 'other' New York airport that's making a splashy comeback](#)

**The Points Guy** - Feb. 2, 2022

Located roughly 70 miles northwest of Manhattan, Stewart isn't one of the "Big 3" NYC-area airports — LaGuardia, JFK and Newark — that are most popular with the region's travelers.

Though its physical footprint is larger than Newark's, only two airlines, Allegiant and Frontier, serve Stewart at the moment.

This summer, the airport is slated to get its first international flights since before the pandemic. Icelandic low-cost carrier Play recently announced plans to add New York Stewart as its third U.S. destination, after Baltimore/Washington and Boston.

The airline will operate daily service to Keflavik, Iceland (KEF), with plenty of one-stop connections to seven cities in Europe, including Paris and Berlin.

Play is marketing Stewart as an alternative to flying to the congested Newark or JFK airports.

The airline says that reduced taxiway congestion, shorter immigration and customs lines and a faster baggage handling system will mean that the total time from arrival in Stewart to your final destination in New York City will be similar to arriving during rush hour in Kennedy or Newark.

But despite the time savings on arrival, getting to and from the airport may be the hardest — and most expensive — part of your journey.

Stewart isn't readily accessible with any existing rail links, and the Port Authority knows that. That's why the agency has partnered with Hudson Transit Lines to offer a nonstop bus service conveniently timed with international departures and arrivals for flyers headed to or from Manhattan.

Priced at \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, the bus connection will be an invaluable option for tourists visiting the city. But, the bus is only as good as its destination: the Port Authority Bus Terminal on 42nd Street and 8th Avenue In Manhattan.

Personally, when I visited the airport for the Play announcement, I took an Uber to the airport. Priced at over \$200, the 90-minute drive from my lower Manhattan apartment was expensive and took a while.

On the way home, I caught a ride to the Metro-North train station in Beacon, New York, where I hopped on the next train bound for Manhattan. The 15-minute drive, along with the \$17.50 off-peak one-way fare, and then a \$2.75 subway ride from Grand Central to Union Square had me wishing that the nonstop bus service was already available.

That said, those who live closer to Stewart or who are renting cars or planning to park at the airport will find it infinitely more convenient than navigating the stress of New York's largest airports.

After all, long-term parking, located just steps from the terminal, maxes out at \$12 per day. At LaGuardia, that number jumps to \$45, and you may even need to take a bus to get to your terminal.

### [Idaho Falls Regional Airport breaks passenger record by 100,000 in 2021](#)

**Standard Journal** - Feb. 1, 2022

Almost 450,000 commercial airline passengers used Idaho Falls Regional Airport in 2021.

The total surpasses the airport's previous usage record, set in 2019, by about 100,000 passengers, city officials said this week.

Fewer passengers — only about 210,000 — utilized the local airport in 2020 due to the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the airline industry. But throughout that year, Cloutier said his staff continued to focus on airport and air service improvements, doubling the number of gates available, from three to six, and expanding the baggage claim and security screening areas.

Airport staffers also are “working through our parking issues,” Cloutier said.

“Every time we add flights, it requires more parking,” he explained. “(That’s) one of the things we’re looking at expanding over the next few years.”

### [PIE celebrates continued growth with new airlines and more destinations](#)

**Tampa Bay Newsletters** -Jan. 29, 2022

Jeff Clauss, director of Air Service Development and Marketing at St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport, told Tourist Development Council members Jan. 20 that 2021 had been a “phenomenal year in growth.”

He said pre-pandemic (2019) the airport, also known as PIE, had celebrated eight consecutive years of recording setting. Then passenger numbers dropped by 39% in 2020 before a sense of normalcy returned in 2021 with July and December both coming in with the most passengers in the airport's history.

Allegiant added nine cities, including Bentonville, Arkansas; Fargo, North Dakota; Little Rock, Arkansas; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Provo, Utah; Key West, Florida; and Wichita, Kansas. Two new flights are coming: Akron/Canton, Ohio on March 4, and Clarksburg/Morgantown, West Virginia on March 11.

Swoop, a new Canadian airline began service to Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario in November. New scheduled service on Sun Country to Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota also began in November. New charter service to Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa in Atlantic City, New Jersey began on Sun Country in July.

Clauss talked about the airport's capital improvement projects, of which many were outlined in the winter newsletter. The projects include relocation of the airfield electrical vault, construction of restrooms in cell phone lots and replacement of gates 7-11 exit lane portals.

*This message has been sent to you [The Airport Ground Transportation Association](#)*