

AGTA News from the Airport Curb for the week of 7/21/22.



AGTA News from the Airport Curb



GROUND TRANSPORTATION NEWS

[L.A. County will keep mask mandate at airports, on public transit, despite federal changes](#)

LA Times - April 21, 2022

Despite recent changes at the federal level, Los Angeles County will continue to require travelers to mask up when aboard public transit or in indoor transportation hubs such as airports.

The new health officer order, which officially goes into effect at 12:01 a.m. Friday, puts the nation's most populous county in the now-familiar position of having face-covering rules in place that go beyond those set by the state.

L.A. County's mask requirement will apply to public transit within the county — including trains, buses, taxis and ride-hailing services — as well as indoor transportation centers such as airports, bus terminals and train stations, according to Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer.

The order will apply to Los Angeles International Airport and Hollywood Burbank Airport. Ferrer said she expects the Long Beach and Pasadena public health departments, which operate independently of the county, to adopt a similar order.

In opting to maintain the mandate, Ferrer cited both the continued elevated level of coronavirus transmission countywide and the recent assessment from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that said, in part, that "wearing masks is most beneficial in crowded or poorly ventilated locations, such as the transportation corridor."

Public transit agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area formally dropped their mask requirements Wednesday but also continue to suggest wearing face coverings.

The board governing the BART commuter rail system, however, will consider reinstating a mask mandate at a meeting next Thursday.

[SANDAG plans direct transit hub get people to San Diego airport faster](#)

CBS8 - *April 21, 2022*

New options are on the way for travelers heading to and from San Diego International Airport.

SANDAG announced plans to create two transit connections to the airport aimed at making airport travel easier and faster.

Officials say they plan to break ground on construction of the project within the next two to three years.

The two transit connections will be located at the Port of San Diego Headquarters and at the Santa Fe Depot in Downtown San Diego.

SANDAG plans to adjust trolley, bus and train lines so travelers can connect to the transit connection locations.

The transit connections are also known as “people movers.” Guided, small, automated transit vehicles that move small groups of people to and from a location. These vehicles are similar to transit connections in Las Vegas or at theme parks.

To expedite the implementation of this project and ensure the San Diego region is well-positioned to be the first in line for federal infrastructure funding, SANDAG will move forward this year with the environmental review process for the airport connection components of the project.

[Covid News: U.S. Justice Dept. May Appeal Ruling That Voided Mask Mandate on Public Transit](#)

The New York Times - *April 21, 2022*

The Biden administration announced on Tuesday that it intended to appeal a Florida judge's ruling that struck down a federal mask requirement on airplanes, trains, buses and other public transportation — but only if the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention decides that extending the measure is necessary.

In the end, the administration charted a careful course, publicly objecting to Monday's ruling but putting off a final decision about whether to contest it. The Justice Department and the C.D.C. “disagree with the district court's decision and will appeal, subject to C.D.C.'s conclusion that the order remains necessary for public health,” the department said in a statement.

If the C.D.C. decides there is a public health basis for trying to reinstate and extend the mandate, the Justice Department will swiftly file an appeal. But if the C.D.C. decides otherwise, the administration will not appeal and the case will instead end as mooted — but without any signal of executive branch acquiescence to the judge's view of its authority.

A wave of federal agencies, city transit authorities and private companies said that they would no longer require travelers to wear masks after a federal judge appointed by former President Donald J. Trump voided a mandate on Monday that had been in place since February of last year. Just days earlier, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had extended the mandate through May 3 to assess the state of the pandemic.

[Dulles Airport Is Getting A Brand New Concourse](#)

DCist.com - *April 20, 2022*

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority board unanimously approved a plan Wednesday for the new \$675 million facility, with construction set to begin in 2023 and an opening date in 2026. To fund the venture, the Authority is applying for a \$230 million competitive grant made possible by the passage of the recent infrastructure bill in Congress.

The new concourse would be four times larger than the current setup at Concourse A, which was built as a temporary structure that's now too small to meet demand. Passengers for regional flights at gates A1-A6 currently have to leave the building and walk to their planes to board. Those gates would no longer be used, but so far it's unclear if they would be torn down.

The 400,000 square-foot, 14-gate concourse would include new retail and dining options, more seating, airline lounges, and other amenities. It also improves the backend operations for servicing planes and moving baggage. Plans call for building it on top of the current Aerotrains station, which would also create shorter walking times. Officials hope to build it to the eco-friendly LEED Silver standard.

MWAA plans to pay for the new concourse through bonds and a new Federal Aviation Administration grant that helps airports upgrade or replace aging facilities. The new \$5 billion competitive grant program is a part of the infrastructure act.

[For bus and train riders, the mask confusion continues](#)

BuffaloNews.com - *April 20, 2022*

A day after airports and airlines across the country jettisoned their mask requirements for patrons after a federal judge in Florida struck down a national mask mandate for flyers, Gov. Kathy Hochul declined to follow suit.

"We are going to continue for public transit," she said during a news conference in Syracuse in which she discussed a rise in new cases of Covid-19.

She said masks will also continue to be required in settings such as nursing homes and jails.

All transportation authorities outside of New York City had announced they were dropping their mask requirements. New York City has kept its in place for public transportation.

Following the Monday decision of a federal judge in Florida, which struck down Washington's mask directives on public transportation, the U.S. Transportation Security Administration said late Monday it would drop mask requirements at the Buffalo Niagara and Niagara Falls international airports. That prompted the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority to follow suit on Tuesday.

But after Hochul's statement, the NFTA clarified that masks would continue to be required for all of their services and facilities.

[LAX Automated People Mover guideway structure done; train system should open next year](#)

Daily Breeze - *April 20, 2022*

Los Angeles International Airport announced a major milestone on Wednesday, April 20, in construction of its Automated People Mover, with the last concrete poured for the project's 2.25-mile elevated guideway structure.

The train is the centerpiece of the airport's modernization program and will have six total stations — three inside the Central Terminal Area and three outside the CTA. The People Mover will connect the train system to Metro rail and bus lines and a car rental facility.

Officials expect the train system to be ready in 2023, and the full modernization project is expected to be completed ahead of the 2028 Olympic Games, being held in Los Angeles.

Now that crews have completed the guideway structure, they'll build the plinths, on which train cars will ride. They'll also start construction on the guideway's emergency walkway.

The train's stations have already begun construction, and the last steel is expected to be placed for the Center and West Central Terminal Area stations in the coming months, according to the airport.

[Stacking rental car perks with Hertz and the Venture X](#) **The Points Guy** - April 20, 2022

Forget all of the other perks that come with rental car elite status. The upgrades, the "free second driver" — even the four-hour grace period on returns. None of that compares to the ability to skip the line when picking up your car. I'd argue that it's *the* perk most of us care about.

Unfortunately, this typically isn't available when booking cars through a third-party platform. And this includes popular credit card portals like Chase Travel and Capital One Travel — which is a bummer, since you can earn hefty bonuses for making travel reservations through these sites.

Fortunately, it's now possible to do just that with one popular travel rewards card.

If you book a rental car — from any company — via the Capital One Travel portal and pay with your Venture X card, you will earn 10 miles per dollar spent on that rental. On the other hand, rentals booked elsewhere (including directly with the rental car company) will only earn 2 miles per dollar.

In addition, Venture X cardholders can also enjoy automatic Hertz President's Circle status, just for being a cardholder.

[Gird yourselves. The summer of travel chaos just got more chaotic](#) **CNN Travel** - April 20, 2022

Anyone thinking of traveling by air in the next few months faces potential delays or cancellations as airlines struggle to rebuild capacity and workforces that shrank dramatically during the pandemic.

Then there's latest flip-flop confusion on US airplane mask mandates. The latest flip (or flop) on that is:

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Wednesday that it has asked the Department of Justice to appeal Monday's ruling by a federal judge that struck down the mask mandate for mass transportation. The DOJ filed the appeal early Wednesday evening. Stay tuned for more on that legal struggle.

There's more to come, with major US airlines saying they do not have enough pilots to fly their timetables.

JetBlue and Alaska Airlines have already reduced their summer schedules. It's likely others will need to do likewise or play fast and loose with what they're offering their customers.

At the root of this issue are measures taken by airlines to stay afloat during the early days of the pandemic when fleets of passenger planes were grounded and the skies fell silent. Haemorrhaging cash, airlines quickly began offloading planes and letting go of thousands of pilots and support crews.

But while numerous airlines are currently on recruitment drives, paying top dollar to sign new pilots, there's still the prospect that many flights in coming months simply won't take off as scheduled.

Even if passengers do get on a plane, Monday's cancellation of the US government's mask mandate for airplanes could further add to confusion. Many airlines have now made masks optional onboard, but rules will differ for international flights where face coverings may still be mandatory.

Zane Kerby, president of the American Society of Travel Advisors, warns there could be further headaches at the destination. For instance, take car rentals -- another industry struggling to handle its post-pandemic pivot.

[Arizona's largest marijuana dispensary to offer shuttle service from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport](#)

KTAR News - April 19, 2022

People flying into Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport will soon be able to get a free ride to Arizona's largest marijuana dispensary.

Mint Cannabis will debut its complimentary shuttle service from the airport's two terminals to its flagship location in Guadalupe on Wednesday, the company announced in a press release.

Mint will also offer a second shuttle, named the #710, that will do free pick-ups from various Valley resorts, special events, conventions, health and wellness facilities, and senior living communities.

The shuttle will drop people off at any of the dispensary's three metro Phoenix locations from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

[Sixt Expands With New Branches in Baltimore and Charlotte](#)

Travel Pulse - April 19, 2022

Sixt is continuing its expansion across the U.S. with the opening of new branches at airports in Baltimore and Charlotte that will offer travelers even more car rental choices on the East Coast.

The car rental company opened its Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) location last week following the opening of its Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) branch last month. Those openings come on the heels of expansion at Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG), Albuquerque International Sunport Airport (ABQ) and Portland International Airport (PDX) at the end of last year.

What's more, Sixt has doubled its footprint at Tampa International Airport (TPA) and can now be found at 28 of the top 30 airports in the U.S.

Sixt, which made its U.S. debut as recently as 2011, currently serves 100 total rental locations in 22 states and has become the fourth-largest car rental company in the country.

[Edinburgh Airport parking: Guide to fees and car parking at Edinburgh Airport](#)

Edinburgh Evening News- April 19, 2022

Long-stay parking at Edinburgh Airport is a six- to eight-minute walk from the terminal and is one of the closest car parks you can find. There's no shuttle, but the path to the terminal is clearly marked.

Mid-stay is suited for if you're away for a few days at a time. A five-minute walk from Departures, it makes it easy and efficient to get to the airport before your flight.

Edinburgh Airport's only valet service must be booked in advance and will be returning from May 1st. You can find it from next to the airport terminal, less than a minute's walk from check-in.

Terminal parking is the most convenient parking option, just a two-minute walk from the Terminal. Pay-as-you-go parking options are also available here.

Parking in the multi-storey offers you direct access to the terminal via the FastTRACK bridge, meaning you can access Departures after just a one-minute walk. Pay-as-you go fares are available, as well as blue badge spaces.

The newest parking addition to Edinburgh Airport offers close-up views of the runway as well as some of the best-value prices on offer. Cars, motorbikes, and vans are all allowed to park here, but there are no blue badge spaces.

As a general rule, pre-booking your parking as early as possible can save you up to 60%. You can pre-book via [the Edinburgh Airport website here](#)

[COVID-19 cases keep rising in Philly as SEPTA, PATCO drop mask mandates; DOJ may appeal federal ruling](#)

The Philadelphia Inquirer - April 19, 2022

The Justice Department said it would appeal the federal court ruling that struck down mask mandates on public transportation if the CDC decides the rule is still necessary.

What you should know

- In Philadelphia, [masks are once again required in all indoor public spaces](#) as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations rise.
- [Masks are optional on SEPTA, PATCO, New Jersey Transit, Amtrak, and several airlines after a federal judge struck down a national mask mandate for public transportation.](#)
- However, masks are still required in Philadelphia International Airport terminals due to the city's indoor mask policy.
- Here's [what experts say about Philadelphia's mask rules.](#)
- Here are [the latest COVID-19 numbers in and around Philadelphia.](#)

[Eight Black Airport Shuttle: Growing and Serving Colorado](#)

Daily Camera - April 19, 2022

Eight Black is an independently-owned company based right here in Colorado. They own and operate multiple businesses, including the largest airport shuttle service in Boulder County, multiple private black car services, and a globally recognized Executive Protection and security consulting business.

Eight Black was founded by Simon Chen, an Australian-born businessman who has lived in the U.S. for over ten years. He started Eight Black in Longmont, which today serves as an airport shuttle service, as well as a black car transportation operator, event company, security business, and provider of concierge services.

Recently, Eight Black acquired Green Ride's Shared Ride Shuttle service between Denver International Airport and homes, businesses, and hotels in the Boulder/Longmont area. Now operating as Eight Black Airport Shuttle, they have also integrated their own shuttle services formerly known as Longmont Shuttle and Boulder Shuttle. This has allowed them to extend their reach and range of services for visitors and residents.

When asked what makes Eight Black different, CEO Simon Chen replied, "It's called the 'missing 10%.'

It's our team's determination to work harder, anticipate your needs, and meet you with a smile each and every time you use us. From touchdown to take-off, we've got you covered. "We are proud to be a local Boulder County company. Our vehicles and drivers are based right here. We wanted to provide a cost-effective yet high-value shuttle service to and from Denver International Airport. A service you can really depend on."

We also intend to be the first shuttle operator in northern Colorado to operate electric vehicles – and we have already begun testing a fully electric Ford Transit shuttle – manufactured by Colorado's own LightningEMotors. Chen says "we have no choice but to move to a fully electric fleet. We are conscious about the environment and our carbon footprint. Electric is the right thing to do".

[ParkVia and DragonPass combine to create European travel benefits platform](#)

The Moodie Davitt Report - April 19, 2022

A joint venture between Manchester-based airport parking technology specialist ParkVia and airport experience platform DragonPass has been established to create what the partners claim to be the largest centralised offering of travel benefits in Europe.

The two companies will jointly offer their members a broad range of travel products that include airport lounge access, airport parking, security fast track, transportation and meet & greet services.

DragonPass – which is headquartered in Guangzhou and now has office in Manchester – has over 30 million members and is a market leader in the airport experience sector. It offers business customers and individuals a personalised solution to make all aspects of travelling through airports smoother and more enjoyable.

Its app allows users to make reservations and receive exclusive offers at over 700 airports and stations in 140+ countries globally.

ParkVia's platform allows users to instantly reserve parking at airports in the UK and further afield and the company also provides the technology that underpins the parking reservation systems of many of Europe's biggest airlines.

The two companies are now working on a digital project to integrate their respective products across their respective membership bases.

[EzFill Signs Fleet Fueling Agreement with Buggy](#)

Auto Rental News - April 19, 2022

On-demand mobile fuel provider EzFill announced in a statement a new fleet agreement with Miami-based car rental operator Buggy. EzFill will provide regular mobile fuel service to Buggy's drivers of Uber, Lyft, and other on-demand ridesharing services in the area.

Buggy has about 6,000 cars in the U.S. and Mexico, with 60 million Uber trips completed over the past 10 years, according to the statement.

"Thanks to our reliable mobile fuel delivery service, Buggy's customers will have peace of mind knowing they are renting fully fueled vehicles, which allows them to spend more time focusing on serving their passengers instead of having to look for local stations to fill up their tanks," said Mike McConnell, CEO of EzFill.

[After years of construction, O'Hare 'people mover' resumes 24-hour service](#)

Chicago Tribune - April 18, 2022

After years of construction, a complete shutdown and then a limited schedule, the "people mover" train at O'Hare International Airport is resuming 24-hour service.

As travels ramps up for spring and summer, the automated train, officially called the Airport Transit System, was scheduled to begin round-the-clock service Monday, the Chicago Department of Aviation said. The train connects passengers to each of the airport's terminals and a transit facility that includes parking, rental cars, Pace bus stops and connects to a Metra station.

During construction and limited operations, shuttle buses ferried passengers between the terminals and the transit facility. The buses will continue to operate 24 hours a day through May 1, the aviation department said.

The revamped and extended train includes a larger fleet of cars that can run more frequently and an upgraded automatic train control system that increased the number of passengers the system could transport.

The fleet has been expanded from 15 cars to 36 cars. Service operates every three minutes, and each three-car train can carry 147 passengers. The train makes five stops, and the trip from Terminal 1 at one end of the tracks to the rental car and transit facility at the other takes 10 minutes, according to the aviation department.

The project was funded through a variety of fees, including passenger and car rental fees and general airport revenue bond proceeds.

Other work at the airport continues. A \$1 billion overhaul of Terminal 5 is underway that will add 10 new gates to the terminal and more passenger amenity space, reconfigure customs facilities and replace the baggage handling system.

The terminal is reopening in phases, and is expected to be fully in use by 2023, airport officials have said. Recently, gates at the terminal began being renumbered.

An \$8.5 billion expansion, slated to be the largest and most expensive terminal revamp in the airport's history, will also include a new global terminal and three new concourses.

[Turo hosts being ticketed for doing business at Hawaii airports](#)

KITV.com - April 18, 2022

Hawaii is fast approaching the summer travel season. It is a time when the airport parking garages and lots can quickly fill up. Lately, some of the stalls are being taken up by cars rented out through Turo, a car sharing service.

And security officers are issuing citations to Turo hosts who are doing exchanges there, while Turo hosts are scrambling to find new ways to conduct business.

"If you're not permitted, you're not allowed to do business on airport grounds. So with those Turo, with the peer-to-peer rentals that are going on, if you are doing business on airport grounds then you are

breaking the law. You could face a \$50 fine and have your car towed," said Hawaii DOT Spokesperson Jai Cunningham.

Having your car towed is not cheap, but the DOT says people are still doing the transactions. The department wants to get the word out so people will stop.

Charo says he's researched and found another option at some other airports.

"It's pretty much a section a the airport that's dedicated to Turo cars. There is an employee who works there extended hours. They do the pickups and drop offs," said Charo.

[FlixBus launches new stop at the Milwaukee Mitchell Airport](#)

TMJ4 - Milwaukee - *April 17, 2022*

FlixBus, North America's fastest-growing intercity bus service, launched a new stop at Milwaukee Mitchell Airport. Service will begin on Thursday.

According to a statement from FlixBus, alongside stops at [Milwaukee Downtown \(575 W Wells Street\)](#) and Milwaukee South ([1400 W College Ave.](#)), riders can enjoy connections five days a week to cities throughout the Midwest, including Chicago, Lafayette, Indianapolis, Dayton, and Columbus.

The new buses offer free Wifi, power outlets at every seat, and an option for riders to travel carbon neutral wherever they are heading by purchasing carbon offset credits with each ride.

According to a statement from FlixBus, they have collaborated with [atmosfair](#) to offer customers the option to travel climate-friendly on their FlixBus journey.

Customers can purchase "CO2 Compensation" tickets during booking, making a voluntary environmental contribution.

The cost of traveling green will be added to customers' ticket prices, approximately 1-3% of the original ticket price.

Every CO2 Compensation donation in the United States is invested in the [National Forest Foundation](#) to give passengers a tangible way to reduce their carbon footprints.

[Residents left behind as pandemic hurts bus companies](#)

Bangor Daily News - *April 17, 2022*

Before the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March 2020, Rochester City Lines, a family-owned commuter and charter bus company in Minnesota, was riding high.

"We were set for our best year ever in 2020," said Christian Holter, the company's director of operations. "And then the wheels fell off."

The company lost a huge chunk of its commuters when Mayo allowed many staffers to work remotely, Holter said. The rest of Rochester City Lines' business, which came mainly from charters booked by high school and college athletics teams and for corporate outings, dried up as well.

In 2020, the company's revenues dropped 93 percent, Holter said.

Like Rochester City Lines, many private bus companies across the U.S. have faced serious hardships during the pandemic. It didn't matter whether they ran scheduled routes from city to city, transported commuters or provided charters and tours.

Throughout the country, many people who don't have cars or don't drive, especially students or people with limited means, rely on intercity buses. If those routes are cut or eliminated, they may be left in the lurch.

Bus companies slashed services, eliminated routes and laid off workers. Buses sat idle. Despite \$1 billion in federal aid, many companies, particularly those that ran charters, couldn't make it and shut down.

In December 2019, there were 3,878 motorcoach carriers in the U.S., according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. As of late February, there were 1,940.

"It's been devastating. Restaurants and hotels seem to be back. Airlines are all busy. Compared to other transportation modes and the travel industry, we are still way, way behind," said Peter Pantuso, president of the American Bus Association, an industry trade group.

Bus companies also are dealing with a major bus driver shortage, as many out-of-work drivers moved to other jobs, such as trucking, during the pandemic.

Many intercity and charter bus companies have managed to stay afloat with help they got from Congress. Some relied on federal Paycheck Protection Program money to help keep staffers employed, at least for a time. And in late 2020, as part of its pandemic relief bill, Congress approved a \$2 billion grant program for motorcoach, school bus and passenger vessel operators. The motorcoach industry got \$1 billion of that.

But it hasn't been nearly enough, he added. His association is hoping Congress will authorize another \$2 billion for the three industries through an amendment added to a larger COVID-19 aid bill by U.S. Sens. Ben Cardin, a Maryland Democrat, and Roger Wicker, a Mississippi Republican. The bill is under consideration in the Senate.

[New York Gov. Hochul announces state EV program progress at LaGuardia Airport](#)
TransportationTodayNews.com - April 15, 2022

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced Wednesday that the New York Power Authority will install 10 fast chargers to power compatible EVs at LaGuardia International Airport in less than 30 minutes.

Part of the state's Evolve NY fast charging network. The state's EVolve NY network will soon have more than 100 high-speed charging ports across the state, officials said.

The new chargers will be installed on a space to be developed on Runway Drive between Terminals A and B. The state anticipates they will be open in 2023. The chargers will be open to the public, including rideshare drivers and taxi operators. The state said the chargers should provide charging for all EVs, including Teslas, with an adapter.

A similar site at JFK International Airport has seen a fivefold increase in use in the past year. Installed in 2020, the charging station registered more than 11,000 charging sessions in 2021.

The fast chargers will complement the 11 existing medium-speed chargers in the La Guardia's indoor parking garages. In 2021, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates La Guardia, became the first transportation agency in the nation to adopt greenhouse gas reduction targets with a plan to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

[Pedestrian safety being reviewed after accident at Atlanta's airport](#)

Fox 5 News - *April 14, 2022*

A mother and her two small children struck by a motorist at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

The vehicle-pedestrian collision caused a one-year-old baby to be ejected from the stroller.

Police say the family was within the marked crosswalk, leaving the terminal and going over to the parking deck.

A ride-share driver named Michael Edward Dyson III admitted to police that he was not paying attention.

Fortunately, there were no life-threatening injuries, although the impact left the vehicle with some damage.

Airport management said it is reviewing what extra steps can be taken to ensure pedestrian safety.

[What Will Self-Flying Air Taxi Vertiports Look Like?](#)

Flyingmag.com - *April 14, 2022*

California-based Wisk Aero, the Boeing-backed (NYSE: BA) developer of a self-flying air taxi, doesn't want to be left out of the conversation about vertiports—the facilities that will serve electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.

So this week, Wisk released a “first-of-its-kind” report detailing how vertiports and related systems and infrastructure could better accommodate automated air taxis.

The report touches on an issue that could make or break the nascent eVTOL industry. Experts have long said the planned business model for eVTOL air taxis will not succeed without permanent, established vertiports where these new, battery-powered aircraft can safely and efficiently land, takeoff, and recharge, as well as securely handle passengers and luggage.

Just think for a minute about how airport operations and configurations are driven by the types of aircraft they serve. Now, extrapolate that to factor in how airports would need to be different if the aircraft were automated. The concept triggers several questions:

- How would automated eVTOLs taxi at vertiports?
- Who would act as the pilot in command (PIC) of a self-flying aircraft and who would maintain situational awareness (SA)?
- What redundancies may be needed to maintain safety levels achieved by piloted aircraft?

Though Wisk's two-seat air taxis will be self-flying, the company says a human will always “be in the loop,” ready to intervene if necessary—so-called pilot-over-the-loop (POTL) mechanisms. Wisk's competitors—Joby Aviation (NYSE: JOBY), Archer Aviation, (NYSE: ACHR) and others—plan to launch on-demand services with onboard pilots flying their aircraft.

Wisk envisions a vertiport automation system (VAS) that “would passively interface with the existing ATC traffic flow management system.” Active coordination would be facilitated by a flight operations center (FOC) which “serves as a conduit between air traffic control (ATC) systems and the VAS.” The VAS also would “interface with uncrewed aircraft traffic management (UTM) provider systems for UAM-specific routes through controlled and uncontrolled airspace.”

In general, eVTOL commercial air taxis in the U.S. are expected to be operated as commuter and on-demand airlines under Part 135.

Obviously, aircraft or fleet operators would be required to fly type certificated eVTOL aircraft listed on their FAA operating certificates. It's worth noting that, so far, zero eVTOLs have been type certificated in the U.S., although Wisk, Joby, Archer, and others are making significant progress. Wisk, a privately held company, has not publicly offered a timeline for type certification of its air taxi or when it plans to begin commercial operations.

Clearly, before this vertiport vision can become reality, eVTOL developers and the FAA have much to do.

[Landline Takes Busing to the Next Level with TSA Changes](#)

CrankyFlier.com - *April 14, 2022*

Starting on June 3, Landline will operate buses for American in American's livery — but without the ugly flag tail — connecting the Philadelphia hub with both Atlantic City and Allentown/Bethlehem. These are two different types of markets which will be a good test for the new partners.

American already has the ability to get people west and south via airplane, but for those who want to go around the northeast or to Europe in particular, American is not a great option unless people want to drive themselves. Now with this service, American can add more value and try to gain better loyalty in the local community.

With a ticket sold on Sun Country, Landline would market its rides with a flight number that would be sold as part of the ticket. If you were late arriving on your bus because of an accident, it would be like arriving late on a regional jet. Sun Country would still have to get you to the destination or refund you, or whatever they require. That was a first good step forward.

With United, that arrangement was similar with "flights" on buses to both Fort Collins and Breckenridge. The flight in was great. You'd arrive on an airplane in Denver and then go to a different gate where you'd board your Landline bus. It was seamless. But the return, not so much. There was still the issue of security. That has now been solved with this American agreement.

Travelers who leave from Atlantic City or Allentown will go to the airport, check their bags, and go through security. There, they will board their bus and be taken airside in Philly where they will get off at a gate and walk right over to their connecting flight as if they'd walked off a regional jet.

This first step is the biggest, because it establishes that functional partnership with TSA. It's hopefully going to open up all kinds of opportunity.

[Philadelphia International Airport to reopen 1,850 economy parking spots next week](#)

ABC6 Action News - *April 14, 2022*

Officials at the Philadelphia International Airport tell Action News they plan to reopen 1,850 spots in the economy lot starting next week.

Beginning Thursday, April 21 the spots will be available for \$15 a day.

The economy lot, which provided 7,000 parking spots, has been closed since March 2020 after air travel came to a halt at the start of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, all airport garages are full for the upcoming holiday weekend, so officials said passengers are going to have to find another way to arrive at PHL.

Off-site parking services provided by companies such as The Parking Spot are one of many options near PHL that are also nearly full.

"It's pretty busy here, especially due to Easter weekend and also it's spring break time," said Maneesh Nair, general manager of The Parking Spot. "The earlier you book, the better rate you get."

Along with ride-sharing options, SEPTA is also another alternative.

SEPTA officials said the best option for riders is the Airport Regional Rail Line, which runs to and from PHL every 30 minutes on weekdays and hourly on weekends.

Officials also said there's plenty of room as SEPTA is still 50% below the number of riders before the pandemic.

[Airport parking rates set to increase, first 30-minute parking will remain free](#)

WWAYtv.com - April 14, 2022

ILM parking rates are set to increase no sooner than the start of May.

For economy parking, the price will go to \$9 a day, which is still lower than rates at both Raleigh-Durham and Myrtle Beach international airports, which are \$10 a day.

ILM's main and premium daily rate hikes were approved to increase to \$12 and \$15.

The last time rates increased in the main daily lot was more than 7-years ago, and more than 3-years ago— in the premium and economy daily lots.

The increase will not impact all other parking lots; they will remain the same, and so will the first 30-minutes of parking.

[Study: Today's EV Tax Credits Might Actually Increase Emissions](#)

Streets Blog USA - April 13, 2022

In a new paper published in [Nature Sustainability](#), researchers modeled the lifetime emissions impact of the electric vehicles that more and more Americans are buying, thanks in part to federal and state tax credits.

More specifically, though, the researchers explored two often-overlooked factors that can have a seismic effect on how green an EV actually is: 1) whether it becomes a *primary* household vehicle, rather than a complement to a gas-powered one, and 2) how far it's actually driven over its lifetime.

Some automakers estimate that building an EV generates about 70 percent *more* emissions than comparable gas-powered cars, thanks to the carbon-intensive battery manufacturing process, though it more than makes up for it once the vehicle has clocked a certain number of zero-emitting miles. [One study](#) estimated that the average battery-powered car emits about 64 percent less over its entire lifecycle than a gas-powered one, if it's driven about the same number of miles a year as the dirtier vehicle.

According to Nunes's model, an average electric car would need to log between 28,069 and 68,160 miles over its lifetime in order to secure it's so-called "green lead" over an internal combustion engine

alternative, depending on household travel behavior and other factors. Those numbers might seem pretty achievable — but only if households hold onto their secondary-use EVs for five to 13 years, which a lot of them don't.

“Basically, you need to hold onto the electric car for about 10 years in order for it to deliver a substantial emissions advantage, [particularly if it's not your primary vehicle],” said Nunes. “If you don't, and the car is scrapped at the end of that time, you were better off driving the internal-combustion engine.”

Unsurprisingly, as of 2021, about 80 percent of the people who participated in the federal EV program belonged to households that pull in more than \$100k every year; by contrast, only about 30 percent of Americans belong to that income bracket. And that imbalance is likely to shift even more if Biden succeeds in expanding the credit to \$12,500, as he sought to do under the now-dead Build Back Better Act.

“The question becomes, what are taxpayers actually getting for all this money?” Nunes added. “The goal of government should not be to get you to buy an electric car; the goal should be to reduce emissions.”

Nunes says his research points to a need for major reforms, including restructuring incentive programs to make them available to second-hand buyers, switching to a federal tax rebate rather than a credit to open the program to lower-income Americans, and in some cases, strategically increasing charging capacity to encourage drivers to take the e-car rather than the clunker.

“Over the past 30 or 40 years, both political parties, but particularly Democrats, have talked a lot about climate change,” said Nunes. “But instead of selling us electric cars, what they should be working towards is disincentivizing car ownership... This notion that all we need to do is throw more money at green tech and no one needs to change anything else — to me, that's really misguided.”

[A back door deal: Land transfer to facilitate driving to O'Hare from west is a bad investment](#) **Streets Blog Chicago - April 13, 2022**

As part of the Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project, which has the goal of creating a ring of highways around the 72-acre international airport by 2026, alderpersons recently approved a land deal with the Illinois Tollway Authority. The agreement paves the way for the I-490 Tollway, which will meet up with the I-294 Tri-State Tollway to the south and the [1-90 Jane Addams Tollway](#) to the north.

“With gas prices surging and transportation emissions growing, this is just what we need: a new expressway to create more car and truck traffic,” Active Transportation Alliance spokesperson Kyle Whitehead said ironically in response to the news, noting that more road capacity will simply encourage more driving. “This project won't relieve congestion around O'Hare in the long run, but it will generate more revenue for the tollway authority. There are many long-proposed ways to upgrade Blue Line, Metra, and Pace service to the airport and make it easier for people to ride transit, but of course those plans will remain on the shelf while the tollway moves forward.”

I share ATA's frustration that government officials just can't seem to think outside the automotive box and create quality sustainable transportation alternatives. (And let's not even get into the climate impacts of aviation as opposed to high-speed rail.) At the very least we should be providing convenient and affordable transit options to one of the country's busiest airports within our city, and we really should be doing it more to make it easier to access O'Hare from the suburbs.

AIRPORT NEWS

[MSP Airport, Metro Transit no longer enforcing masks following federal ruling](#)
KSTP.com - April 19, 2022

For the first time in almost two years, masks are no longer mandatory at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport or on Metro Transit buses and trains.

The decisions from the Metropolitan Airports Commission and Metro Transit came after a federal judge on Monday [struck down a national public transportation mandate](#) and the Transportation Security Administration announced it will no longer enforce the use of masks.

Delta, Sun Country, United and other major airlines servicing MSP also dropped their mask requirements aboard flights.

A Metro Transit spokesperson said that following the federal order Monday, there is no local mask requirement in place for public transportation.

The mask requirement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention covered airlines, airports, mass transit and taxis, and was the biggest vestige of pandemic restrictions that were once the norm across the country. The national health agency had most recently extended its order through May 3.

The decision comes with mixed emotions for travelers, with some saying it's about time, and others say they're not ready to take their masks off while traveling.

The major airlines who updated their rules right away include:

- United
- Delta
- Southwest
- American Airlines
- Sun Country
- Jetblue
- Alaska

[Nevada's Reno-Tahoe Airport To Receive \\$1 Billion Infrastructure Investment](#)
Simple Flying - April 16, 2022

Reno-Tahoe International Airport is set to embark on its largest-ever redevelopment plan. The \$1 billion project, known as MoreRNO, is due to begin this spring and will continue through 2028.

The Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority is seeking funding from a variety of sources to support the redevelopment of the airport's Ticketing Hall, Ground Transportation Center, and concourses.

Already this year, passenger numbers are exceeding pre-pandemic levels, with February 2022 seeing 310,000 passengers, up 1.3% compared to February 2020.

Not only have passenger numbers increased significantly since the airport was built, but passenger tastes and trends have changed a lot too. To improve the passenger experience, the plans will create more space, art, and natural light, and will incorporate greater use of technology to provide touch-free experiences.

The first phase of the project, set to begin this spring, is the redevelopment of the Ticketing Hall. Approximately 10,000 square feet of space will be added to the existing area, with higher ceilings and

more natural light. This will allow the airport to accommodate more airlines in the future. Additional restrooms will also be built, and wayfinding will be improved with better signage.

The Ground Transportation Center will also see major upgrades, with more rental car facilities and more public parking being added. Access to the airport will be improved too, with specific areas allocated for ride-sharing services such as Uber, as well as charging points for electric vehicles. This \$225 million phase of the plan is expected to begin in 2023 and last for two years.

[Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel facing mounting debt, may be closed and turned into airport parking](#)

Cleveland.com - April 15,, 2022

The Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel, located on city land just a couple hundred yards from the Cleveland Hopkins' terminal, is millions of dollars in debt and could be closed in the coming months.

The property also includes a 468-space parking lot, which is used for both overnight guests and airport parking.

In addition to falling behind on rent, the current owners have not abided by another requirement of their lease with the city, to invest \$500,000 in capital improvements in the airport annually, according to court documents.

Parking at the airport has become an increasing problem in recent years, as nearly all passengers through Hopkins now either start or end their journeys in Northeast Ohio. That puts increasing strain on parking facilities as well as roadways in and out of the airport.

Indeed, the new master plan for the airport calls for additional parking on the land that is currently occupied by the hotel. The master plan, completed last year, is a long-term planning document for the airport, to be implemented over the next 20 years.

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