

AGTA News from the Airport Curb - 6/16/22.



## AGTA News from the Airport Curb



### GROUND TRANSPORTATION NEWS

[Airport parking is a mess. Here's how to avoid headaches.](#)

Washington Post - June 16, 2022

"There's been an increased propensity for travelers to drive to the airport and park," said Robert Yingling, a spokesperson for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority that oversees Reagan National Airport and Dulles International Airport. He said both airports have seen a consistent increased demand for parking over the past several months. "There's more travelers in general, but even more are choosing airport parking as their arrival mode," he added.

A painful parking experience can add stress to airport trips that are already hectic. Here are six ways to hack the airport parking system — or avoid it altogether.

If you're traveling out of many big cities, there are public transportation options that get you to the airport quickly and efficiently. In New York, for example, you can take the public bus from uptown Manhattan to LaGuardia Airport for about \$3, and you can take the subway to John F. Kennedy International Airport. In Atlanta, you can take the MARTA rail system directly to Hartsfield-Jackson. Just do your research a couple days ahead of time, and add extra travel time to your plans to account for any unexpected delays that might pop up.

Although you might have to deal with surge pricing, relying on an Uber or Lyft to get you to the airport could be a better option financially and logistically. You end up paying a one-time fee instead of a daily parking rate, and apps give you the option to schedule your ride in advance. If taxis are readily available where you live, that might be a cheaper way to go.

If you're dead set on parking at the airport, add some wiggle room to your schedule. You might end up circling the parking lot for a while, but you'll eventually find a spot once someone else pulls out. If you happen to find a parking space quickly, you might be waiting at your gate for longer than you wanted to, but that's a small price to pay for securing a spot for your car.

Some airport parking lots take reservations in advance. When you're planning out your travel logistics and itinerary, check to see if the airport you're flying from gives travelers that option.

In some cities, nearby buildings like hotels sell parking spaces and offer shuttle ride services to the airport. People who are flying from Miami, for example, have the option to park at the Miami International Airport Hotel's Dolphin Garage for \$17 per day.

### **[SWISS extends collaboration with AirPortr to Zurich Airport](#)** **International Travel Daily News - June 15, 2022**

Following a successful trial phase with the new ground product at **Geneva Airport**, **SWISS** is expanding its partnership with **AirPortr to Zurich Airport**, offering smart-baggage services to addresses across the whole of Switzerland. SWISS travellers departing from Zurich Airport can now make use of the secure AirPortr service to have their baggage collected from their home or hotel, transported to the airport, and checked in for their flight. On arrival at Zurich airport, baggage is collected from baggage claim, cleared through Customs, and delivered to the customer's address. The service saves customers valuable time, with no need to go through the departure airport check-in process or wait for their checked bags after landing.

Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) is expanding its successful partnership with AirPortr to Zurich Airport, and to addresses across the whole of Switzerland. The attractive baggage service has been available to customers departing from Geneva Airport since last October under a trial phase. SWISS travellers departing or arriving at Zurich Airport can now also make use of AirPortr's smart baggage services, to have their bags collected and checked-in, or delivered back to their home or hotel. These services can be booked any time on [www.swiss.com](http://www.swiss.com).

By selecting the AirPortr option on [swiss.com](http://swiss.com), customers can have their baggage collected from their home or hotel up to 23 hours before their flight. All the traveller needs to do is check in online. Their boarding pass will be verified during the collection, and their bags are then sealed to ensure secure transportation to the departure airport, where they are subjected to the usual security checks. Bags are collected in the normal way from the baggage carousel after landing.

Those using the arrival service complete a simple Customs 'e-declaration' online, which allows AirPortr to collect and clear the passenger's bags through Customs, and deliver them to their final address. Customers are kept up-to-date via email and text at every step of the way. They can track their bags at any time through AirPortr's web-app, and are sent digital copies of their airline baggage receipts.

### **[Massachusetts court rejects ballot to define gig workers as contractors](#)** **Tech Crunch - June 14, 2022**

In a major setback for app-based gig economy companies like Uber, Lyft and DoorDash, a Massachusetts court ruled on Tuesday to throw out a proposed ballot measure

that would, if passed, define gig workers as independent contractors rather than employees.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's unanimous decision found that the ballot initiative violated state law and was therefore ineligible to put to voters this fall. The move, which has ended a \$17.8 million campaign by gig companies to support the measure, signifies a major win for labor rights activists who argue that companies have been failing to provide proper worker protections and benefits, like workers' compensation or even a basic minimum wage. In fact, one study found workers in Massachusetts could earn \$4.82 per hour if the measure passed.

The Massachusetts Coalition for Independent Work, the coalition of app-based gig companies that proposed the ballot initiative, did not confirm whether or not it would continue to fight in Massachusetts, but Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi has stated multiple times that the company would support and promote similar proposals across the United States. Uber and other companies are actively working to do just that in states like Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey, New York and Washington.

A survey of about 400 Massachusetts drivers, paid for by the gig companies, found 81% of workers backed the ballot measure. However, labor activists have argued that due to the vast sums of money gig companies spent on convincing drivers their livelihood and flexibility was at stake, drivers were presented with a false and misleading choice between having flexibility and benefits, both of which could be achieved as employees.

### [Berlin-based travel marketplace Distribusion raises €30 million to make it easier to book transport online](#)

**EU-Startups** - June 14, 2022

Travel tech is an incredibly exciting space in 2022. After a couple of years of transport being grounded, this year travel is back and bigger than ever and tech advancements developed over the past couple of years are now coming to fruition. One of the world's leading ground transportation marketplaces, Distribusion, is certainly getting in on this fast-paced action having just secured €30 million in new funding.

Founded in 2014, Distribusion is a travel tech platform providing access to different ground transportation options worldwide, empowering travellers with an improved travel experience. The B2B booking platform boasts one of the largest networks of carriers and retailers in the industry, connecting global travel brands with hundreds of bus, airport transfer, train and ferry providers.

Today's ground transportation market is highly fragmented and often subject to bespoke, legacy technology when it comes to supplier schedules and booking systems. It's meant that planning and booking scheduled journeys online are either not possible or a confusing and time-consuming experience for travellers. As a result, over 100 million ground transportation tickets are purchased offline every day. In today's digital world, the transportation booking segment is clearly lagging behind.

Distribusion's B2B ground transportation marketplace tackles this issue by providing a vast array of operators from 70+ countries with instant access to its network of travel agents, meta-search websites, and other mobility platforms. Distribusion's standardisation layer enables online retailers to sell tickets for any operator by connecting to one single API, without any individual contracts or technical effort. Consumers benefit from the resulting ability to compare and purchase tickets on the websites and apps that they know and trust. It's a win-win situation.

### [Surprising no one, traffic woes plague drivers navigating the Sumner Tunnel closure](#)

**Boston.com** - June 14, 2022

The Sumner Tunnel was closed this weekend, the first closure in a series of 36 scheduled as crews restore the nearly century-old tunnel.

Many taxi and rideshare drivers, like Lyft and Uber, decided to avoid the airport completely, leading to a shortage, according to Boston 25.

When there aren't enough available, Massport institutes "double loading" in taxis or cars for people going to the same area. To help with this issue, riders can take the Blue Line, ferry or free Silver Line to the airport. There's also Logan Express or private bus services.

### [Green Courte Adds Third Near-Airport Parking Facility at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport](#)

**Yahoo Finance** - June 14, 2022

Green Courte Partners, LLC ("GCP"), a private equity real estate investment firm and owner of The Parking Spot ("TPS"), the nation's leading near-airport parking company, announced today the acquisition of Blue Sky Airport Parking, a 1,540-space parking facility serving Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport ("PHX"). The facility, which will be rebranded as "The Parking Spot South" in the coming months, will be the company's third property in the PHX market and is the only near-airport parking facility located south of the airport. The property's unique location relative to the other two TPS properties on the north side of the airport will allow TPS to extend its customer base to include those arriving from the fast-growing southern and eastern Phoenix suburbs. The acquisition expands GCP's near-airport parking portfolio to 38 facilities at 22 airports containing approximately 78,000 spaces nationwide.

### [Landline back in full operation in Mankato with new services](#)

**The Free Press** - June 13, 2022

Landline, which started a Mankato to Minneapolis motor coach service aimed at air travelers, is coming to Mankato with new services after having to suspend its Mankato bus operations during the pandemic.

The service will be somewhat different from the one Landline started in Mankato in spring of 2019. It then used large buses that made several trips a day between the Mankato Regional and Minneapolis-St. Paul airports.

For the new service, rather than using large buses, Landline is buying 10-passenger vehicles. And they will not operate out of the Mankato airport. Instead people can park and leave their vehicles at a designated lot at the Courtyard by Marriott, near River Hills Mall.

Beginning July 1, Landline will begin making five trips daily between Mankato and MSP. People can now book Landline trips at [Landline.com](http://Landline.com).

Passengers can expect to pay \$30 one way, with discounts for booking in advance and children's discounts. Landline will initially offer a promotional rate of \$15 one way.

Thiesse said people don't have to stay at the Courtyard by Marriott to park there for free; they just check in with the hotel and park in a designated lot. But she said many travelers will likely stay at the hotel the night before their trip to the airport or the night they return.

Landline partnered with Blue Earth Taxi, which will hire the drivers and operate the Landline shuttles.

Landline service is for anyone catching a flight at MSP, no matter what airline they use. Or people can take Landline to MSP even if they're not boarding a flight and just want a ride to the Twin Cities.

['It's very difficult for us right now': High gas prices take toll on rideshare drivers](#)  
**NBC 12 On Your Side - June 13, 2022**

Delores Jordan, a rideshare driver who also works for Uber and Lyft, is also feeling the pinch as drivers work to cover the costs of their trips.

"It's very difficult for us right now," Jordan said. "Because gas is so high, and we try to take every trip because every trip is money for us, but sometimes the trip doesn't pay for the fuel."

In response to the rising prices, a spokesperson for Uber sent us the following statement:

*"We know drivers are feeling the sting of record-high prices at the pump so we are temporarily extending the gas surcharge on rides trips. We'll continue to listen to driver and courier feedback and proactively communicate any changes to them in advance."*

The fuel surcharge is an additional 55 cents for each ride, which Uber said will go directly to drivers.

A spokesperson for Lyft also said they are temporarily extending their fuel surcharge for drivers, which is also the same amount Uber is offering.

A spokesperson for Uber also added, "the goal of this surcharge is to soften the burden of higher prices, not cover all of the cost of gas."

An Uber spokesperson also said the company continues to see an increase in drivers on their platform. The spokesperson also adds that May was their best month in terms of active drivers since March 2020.

[For Travelers, Airport Parking Is the Latest Headache](#)  
**The Wall Street Journal - June 10, 2022**

Travelers are packing their bags in greater numbers, and more fliers are driving to the airport than before the Covid-19 pandemic, parking managers and airport directors say. And a growing percentage of those who park at or near airports are making reservations in advance, leaving even fewer spaces for day-of travelers.

The desire for parking at airports is expected to remain high throughout the summer. Some airports have raised prices because of high demand. Others are encouraging travelers to take ride-shares or public transportation, or get dropped off.

Mr. VanLoh says business travelers used to fill up premium lots closest to the airport. Now leisure travelers are competing for those spots after filling up the less expensive lots.

At Los Angeles International Airport, passenger levels are 75% of what they were in 2019, but the number of people parking has exceeded 2019 levels, Los Angeles World Airports CEO Justin Erbacci says. At LAX, 72% of people who park in the airport's new economy lot have pre-booked, Mr. Erbacci says.

Many travelers want to avoid high prices on ride-shares and are finding it more cost-effective to drive, he says. There is also a higher percentage of leisure travelers, which means more cars at the airport, he says. The average Uber and Lyft fare hit a record high in the U.S. in May, after achieving a previous record in April, according to market-research firm YipitData.

Parked cars at the New York area's three major airports are staying much longer on average than they did previously, which creates a capacity crunch, says Susan Warner Dooley, aviation chief commercial officer for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. In all of May, many parking lots were

bumping up against 85% capacity, at which point people need to circle around to find a spot, increasing congestion, she says.

More people are driving to off-airport lots, too. The Parking Spot, which has 38 locations near 22 major U.S. airports, saw over 15% more cars in its lots in May this year versus May 2019, CEO Jeff Foland says. New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Austin, Texas, have shown exceptionally high demand.

Dallas Love Field Airport and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport raised prices for parking because of high demand. In February, Phoenix made adjustments including raising daily fees for two terminals to \$30, up from \$27, and is charging \$16 a day for covered self-parking in one garage, up from \$12 a day. The airport still sees high demand for parking, especially during most weekends and holidays, a spokeswoman says, and is opening a 1,600-space economy parking facility in the fall.

Weekends are pushing Miami's airport parking garages to capacity, an airport spokesman says. Since Memorial Day, the airport has transitioned employees to a remote parking lot, which freed up about 1,000 spaces. But the lots still sometimes approach capacity, he says.

### **[San Diego MTS, Airport Authority team up for free airport transit options](#)**

**Mass Transit Magazine** - June 9, 2022

The San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is offering free rides from Terminal 1 and 2 at the San Diego International Airport (SAN) to downtown San Diego destinations on the agency's airport exclusive bus Route 992.

The promotion will continue through Labor Day, Sept. 5, 2022.

This summer promotion builds on SAN's San Diego Flyer, a free electric shuttle bus that began service in November 2021. The San Diego Flyer offers service between the San Diego International Airport and the Old Town Transit Center.

The San Diego Flyer offers free rides between Terminal 1 and 2 and the Old Town Transit Center. The all-electric shuttle operates seven days a week with an average arrival of every 20-30 minutes. Pick-up and drop off times are timed to make easy connections with Trolleys, buses, COASTER and Amtrak trains. San Diego Flyer service spans from 4:45 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. daily.

MTS Airport Route 992 also serves Terminal 1 and 2 and offers many convenient destinations along Broadway and downtown San Diego, including Santa Fe Depot. All Route 992 buses have luggage racks for easy storage and serve all stops every 15 minutes most of the day, seven days a week from 5:00 a.m. to midnight.

### **[New ridesharing company to begin operating in the Sault next month](#)**

**Northern Ontario Business** - June 9, 2022

After more than a year of work and planning, a new ridesharing service is expected to begin service in Sault Ste. Marie on July 1, said co-founder Chris Morris.

Morris and business partner Daniela Parrotti both worked as contract drivers for a competing rideshare service when they decided to work together on a completely new business they built from the ground up named EZ RIDE.

When EZ RIDE launches next month, it will have a total of five contracted drivers, including Morris and Parrotti. Morris said the plan is for him to eventually step away from driving as the business expands.

"Our plan is to expand the number of drivers we have as our customer base grows at the same pace," he said.

The drivers must also use their own vehicle, which cannot be more than five years old and must pass a safety inspection each year.

A big change since plans for the business began is the price of gas.

"To see it a dollar a litre more, that is definitely going to be a challenge to encourage drivers," said Morris.

The company plans on offering bonuses to drivers once they hit a certain number of trips.

One thing Morris learned while working as a part time rideshare driver is the needs of passengers flying into the Sault Ste. Marie Airport.

"I left aviation to start this up, but I know the struggles of being a passenger coming into the Sault, and the struggle is if you're not from the Sault, you are expecting to walk off the airplane to find a lineup of cabs. Even today, people think that when they fly here for the first time," he said.

"The goal is to become more of a presence there, so when passengers get off they are not dumbfounded and wondering what they are going to do because that service isn't there."

## AIRPORT NEWS

### [8 Top Airports In The U.S. Our Readers Love](#)

**TavelAwaits.com** - June 15, 2022

Our readers' favorite airport is Denver International Airport. The airport is just east of the Front Range in the Rocky Mountains, in the Mile-High City of Denver, Colorado.

The Denver International Airport boasts:

- 26 international destinations in 11 countries
- An easy 30-minute commute to downtown Denver
- Ample parking outside of the airport for drop-off, short-term, and long-term parking
- The Transit Center, which grants easy access by bus or train to the University of Colorado and the Denver Airport Train
- Shuttles taking you to many destinations within the Rocky Mountains

#### 2. Austin–Bergstrom International Airport (AUS)

AUS is just southeast of the center of Texas. Unique to this airport, AUS has live music performances, reinforcing the city's desire to become the "Music Capital of the World." Passengers can experience and feel the energy of live musicians jamming as they walk throughout the airport. They can also witness these experiences unique to AUS:

- Great music, live or piped in from local radio station KUTX
- Amazing food options and local and tasty lip-smacking barbecue
- Grab a cup of coffee served by a robot, located at Gate 12 and 17
- Easy to navigate for transit; drop-off and pick-up

#### 3. Dallas Love Field Airport (DAL)

Coming in third place is where our readers have put their hearts: in Love Field, Texas. What Dallas

Love Field Airport lacks in size, compared to her big sister DFW Airport just up the road, she makes up in history and hospitality.

True Southern hospitality is what keeps passengers coming back. It's a smaller and simplified airport, making this a breeze to transit to the Dallas proper area, just 6 miles away. It's small enough to walk about, with no need for rail service or shuttle buses to get around. This is truly Southwest Airlines country, and it's evident they dominate this part of the state.

#### 4. Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)

Sea-Tac, as the locals call it, has plenty of things to do if you have a bit of time between flights. Located in one of the most beautiful areas of the Pacific Northwest, SEA is perched on a plateau above Puget Sound. Growing almost every year in size, SEA has domestic and international destinations that feed the northwest part of the country and the world.

#### 5. Tampa International Airport (TPA)

Sun and fun — that's what I think of when I dream of Florida, and our readers love it too! Tampa International Airport has it all; it's centrally located near the best beaches, has great shopping, and is close to Orlando's theme parks. It's also an international destination, making it a gateway to the western coast of Florida, with expedited customs and all!

#### 6. Minneapolis–St. Paul International Airport (MSP)

Whether it is summer or winter, this airport has you covered — literally! Its exterior walkways are protected. Facing the elements — whether it's freezing cold with blowing snow or sweltering hot with high humidity — isn't going to happen here. I'm sure our voters agree that Minneapolis–St. Paul International Airport has got it under control.

#### 7. Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT)

Some might not even consider Charlotte, North Carolina, an international hub, but American Airlines does! The passengers that travel through Charlotte Douglas International Airport enjoy the upgrades the airport has recently completed and will continue with until 2035.

#### 8. Orlando International Airport (MCO)

Most people hear the words Orlando International Airport and think, *Disney World!* Transportation headaches have been removed for visitors with easy transit to hotels. There are shuttles, rental cars, car and rideshare services, and taxis. MCO is large and requires planning since most airlines utilize terminals that require a monorail ride. Summer 2022 is going to be *busy*, so plan ahead for longer lines in security and navigate to the correct monorail platform to your terminal.

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