



Lambert-St. Louis International Airport®

News

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St. Louis Moving Forward with Airport Improvements

Bonds will pay for terminal, concourse and other airport infrastructure projects

St. Louis - The City of St. Louis will seek an estimated \$125 million in airport bond funding for major capital improvement projects to restore and renovate facilities at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

Nearly \$59.5 million of the funding will finance the next phase of Lambert's Airport Experience Program, a terminal and concourse renovation and modernization plan. Major new improvements will include: new ticket counters and flooring in the ticketing hall; new and improved security checkpoints; new restaurant and concession venues; new restrooms; new ceilings, flooring, lighting and signage. Design work for the next set of projects to renovate the Main Terminal and Concourses A, B and C will be completed in December 2009. Construction could begin as early as spring 2010.

"Our customers have told us they want Lambert improved," said Mayor Francis Slay. "Given the reality of the airline industry, the fiscally responsible way to do it is piece by piece."

As part of the Airport Experience, three renovation projects costing \$17 million started last year. They include the interior restoration of the Main Terminal dome ceilings and the installation of a new in-line baggage system. Those projects should be finished next month. The replacement of all roadway signs along Lambert International Boulevard will begin this fall.

The Airport Experience was originally estimated to cost \$105 million. However, due to the current economic climate, the Airport conducted a rigorous review of its project list and is only committed to a total of \$70.5 million in projects at this time.

"We are fortunate to be able to continue the momentum started last year to improve airport operations and passenger services," said Lambert Director Richard Hrabko. "Our goal remains the same: to make this historic facility a more modern and inviting place for our citizens and visitors."

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The new bond funding will also help cover the costs for millions in other projects outlined in Lambert's five-year Capital Improvement Plan. The renovations will improve airport operations and passenger service. Major projects include climate control upgrades, roof replacements on three concourses, six new airline loading bridges, emergency generators and new elevators in the Main Terminal garage.

In addition, the new bonds will cover \$20.3 million in grant eligible airfield projects and \$21.8 million for debt service reserves, interest and cost of issuance fees.

It is estimated that all told, the projects will create several thousands construction jobs.

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Lambert is the 30th busiest airport in the U.S. as ranked by Airports Council International-North America. Lambert serves nearly 15 million passengers a year with an average of 300 daily departures to 72 national and international destinations. For more information on flights and services at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, log onto www.flystl.com.

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