

Will Rogers World Airport

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, March 26, 2003

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Transportation Plaza Opens at Will Rogers World Airport Construction on Front of Existing Terminal Begins

OKLAHOMA CITY – Will Rogers World Airport has reached its first milestone in the terminal expansion project. The newly constructed Transportation Plaza officially opens today and marks the completion of Phase 1, the first portion of the five-year, \$110 million endeavor.



Textured, colored concrete, stainless steel pillars and high open canopies are a few of the features of the contemporary-styled plaza. The facility is designed to accommodate all of the public transportation traffic at the airport including taxis, shuttles, courtesy vehicles, Metro Transit and charter buses.

At the same time that the plaza opens another phase of the terminal renovation gets underway. Construction begins this week expanding the front of the building an additional 30 feet. In order to accomplish this, all the upper and lower roadways in front of the terminal building will be closed. This will allow demolition of a portion of the existing roadway and erection of the steel for the high-roof canopy.

While the roadways are closed and this section is under construction, all departure and arrival traffic will be routed to the new transportation plaza, located between the two-story parking garage and the terminal building. Temporary sky cap stations and screening stations have been installed so that curbside check-in may be maintained.

“The procedures for pickup and dropoff are definitely different than what visitors are used to and may cause some inconvenience, but it is important to keep our eye on the future,” says airport director Luther Trent. “When completed the terminal will be a impressive gateway to the City of Oklahoma City. One that will enhance economic development efforts, prepare us for future growth and make the airport more efficient for our travelers and airlines.”

Following are some tips for people visiting the airport.

Departing Travelers:

- Give yourself an extra 15-20 minutes. While the walking distance is not much further, the extra time allows you to find your way and familiarize yourself with the changed environment. An hour and a half before departure is a safe bet.
- Use curbside baggage check-in service. Temporary skycap and security screening stations have been located in the transportation plaza.
- Be sure to verify with the airlines times for check-in deadlines. Many airlines have enacted deadlines for checking bags and getting a boarding pass due to security regulations.
- Check www.flyokc.com for construction progress.
- Look for signs that will help direct you.

Passenger Pickup:

- To avoid congestion in the plaza, use the hourly parking garage and meet your party in the terminal.
- If you choose to pickup at the plaza, coordinate the time of pick up with your party. Since you will not be able to park in the plaza area, cell phones are a great way to let a driver know when to pull up.



For All Visitor:

- Be patient. While inconvenient for a period of time, the community will be rewarded with a beautiful new gateway to the City of Oklahoma City.

Phase 1 encompassed the landside improvements needed to facilitate the construction and expansion of the terminal building. These included the widening of access roads, new parking garage ramps, updating of the underground walkway and a new escalator/elevator station in the hourly and rental car garages providing improved access to the terminal building.

Phase II includes the construction of new west concourse, anticipated to be open in early summer, a new concourse across the back of the existing terminal building, expansion of the ticket lobby areas and baggage claim areas, and improved arrival and departure roadways. Estimated completion date for Phase II is mid-2005.