

Will Rogers World Airport

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SOUTHWEST AIRLINES MOVES TO NEW CONCOURSE AND GATES

OKLAHOMA CITY – Employees of Southwest Airlines in Oklahoma City worked through the night Tuesday in preparation for operations out of their new gates and concourse area Wednesday morning. After moving equipment, hooking up computers and testing PA and state-of-the-art gate-reader systems, Southwest was ready for their first departing customers at 6:25am.



The new gates, located in the center of the building directly beyond the west security checkpoint, are part of the newly expanded concourse. The gate areas are significantly larger than those in the old concourse C, Southwest's previous location, with roomier seating and more fluid queuing space. The large glass windows and 35-foot high center corridor give passengers a sense of openness and light, not to mention a spectacular view of the airfield. In addition to the gates, new airline operations space for Southwest and new tug lanes in the baggage make-up area are also complete.

The Southwest ticket counter and bag claim area will remain in the old part of the terminal for the time being with renovation of those areas scheduled to begin later in the summer.

The opening of the new gates are just one of several construction milestones to be reached this month. The lower (arrival) roadway reopened to the public on April 5 allowing private vehicular traffic to pick up passengers in front of the terminal building. Last Saturday, April 9 marked the long awaited opening of Schlotsky's and Sbarro restaurants. Sonic will open this coming Sunday. Paradies/Kambers will open their "Big 12 Shop" on April 20th and American Airlines is scheduled to move into their new ticket counter space on April 26th.

The Plaza Garden will be complete the first week of May with the dedication of the bronze statue of Will Rogers on May 5.

Delta Airlines plans to move to temporary gates, ticket counter and bag claim areas in the new concourse and lobbies later this month or early May. This move will facilitate the demolition of the old concourse C making way for the construction of the final three gates of Phase II.

All of these improvements are part of the \$110 million expansion/renovation project currently underway at Will Rogers World Airport.



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