



News Release

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Ford International Airport Announces Return to New, Permanent Curb-Front Passenger Drop-off/Pick-up Location

Temporary Roadway to Close

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 2, 2008 – Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) officials announced that, beginning Friday, December 5, customers will be directed to the all-new, permanent curb-front passenger drop-off and pick-up area located immediately in front of the terminal and beneath the new glass roadway canopy. The temporary roadway and covered walkways will close to accommodate phased construction of the parking structure. Airport roadway signs will direct motorists to the new terminal curb-front.

While airport patrons will benefit from shorter walks and protection from the weather's elements offered by the new roadway system and canopy, construction will continue in the vicinity of the passenger drop-off and pick-up area for the remainder of the project. GFIA officials anticipate the ongoing curb-front area construction will have little or no impact on airport customers. Travelers are encouraged to allow additional arrival time to wayfind around the ongoing construction.

The temporary short-term, long-term, Express Shuttle and handicap parking lots will remain in their current locations.

Parking instructions are as follows:

Short-term parking:

- Limited-space, short-term parking is located at the east end of the terminal (look for signs)
- Overnight parking is prohibited in the short-term lot
- Hourly parking is available in all long-term lots, including the Express Shuttle lot

Long-term parking is available in:

- North Lot
- Express Shuttle parking lot, located on the north side of John Oostema Blvd. (one block east of Patterson Ave.)
- Patrons are **required** to use the free shuttle service to/from all long-term lots

Handicap parking:

- A portion of every open lot is devoted to handicap parking

Important considerations for travelers:

- All visitors parking in a long-term lot are required to take a shuttle to and from the terminal for construction safety reasons
- Travelers are strongly encouraged to arrive at the airport **a full 90 minutes** prior to scheduled departure

The return to the all-new terminal curb-front will allow for continued construction of the new covered parking ramp, pedestrian sky bridges connecting the ramp to the terminal, and roadway infrastructure improvements.

During the ongoing construction, visitors should watch for directional signage located throughout airport roadways.

Additional parking and construction-related information may be found at:

- **Ramp Up!** – Red directional and advisory signs on airport roadways assist airport visitors in quickly and easily identifying project-related information and instructions. Visitors can also sign up to receive project-related updates via e-mail.
- **flygrandrapids.org** – Click on the *Ramp Up!* link (an online site that provides up-to-date parking and project information).
- **AM 1610** – When approaching the airport, tune in for information, including project advisories and instructions, on airport radio station AM 1610.
- **233-RAMP** – Phone hotline featuring recorded messages with current project information.

Gerald R. Ford International Airport currently serves approximately two million passengers annually and is the second busiest airport in Michigan.

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