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**Ford International Airport Breaks Ground on
Ramp Up! Terminal and Parking Improvement Project**

Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 26, 2007 – Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) officials and members of the Kent County Aeronautics Board (KCAB) formally broke ground today to kick off construction of the airport's \$118 million terminal area and parking improvement program.

A new 4,900-space, four-story, covered parking ramp and related terminal area improvements are slated to be completed in the fall of 2009. The significantly improved parking and terminal structure will also feature pedestrian sky bridges connecting the ramp to the terminal, a covered roadway canopy for passenger drop-offs, and all new utilities and roadway infrastructure. In addition to safe, close, covered short- and long-term vehicle parking, the facility will house on-site rental car operations.

Offering remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony were Jim Koslosky, Kent County aeronautics director; John Van Laar, Kent County Aeronautics Board chair; Roger Morgan, Kent County Board of Commissioners chair; Jeanne Englehart, president of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce; and Steve Wilson, president of the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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The logo features the text "Ramp Up!" in a bold, red, italicized sans-serif font, with a red swoosh underline that ends in a small airplane icon. Below this, the word "PARKING" is written in a bold, black, all-caps sans-serif font.

Ramp Up! **PARKING**

Also joining GFIA officials and community leaders were KCAB members Thomas O'Hare, vice chairman; Dean Agee; Joseph Jones; Richard Vander Molen; and Theodore Vonk.

Representatives from The Christman Company, which is handling the construction, were present, along with area business leaders and representatives of project architect Gresham Smith and Partners.

"We're excited about getting started with this truly significant project in the airport's history," said Koslosky. "We are committed to offering a higher level of customer service, improving convenience, and expanding our ability to meet the increasing demands of travelers now and into the future. We look forward to supporting the many economic development efforts and investments being made in our region."

To improve customer service and to support the growth of the region, the terminal area and parking improvement program is a capstone piece in a continuous and strategic improvement plan GFIA has been implementing since 1992 in response to regional demand. Past improvements have included runway extensions and rebuilding, an extensive renovation of the passenger terminal building, and construction of a new runway, air cargo center, and the Express Shuttle parking facility.

For up-to-date, project-related updates and parking information, travelers are encouraged to visit www.flygrandrapids.org and click on the *Ramp Up!* link (where they can also sign up to receive project-related updates via e-mail), tune into the airport radio station AM 1610 when within the airport vicinity, or call the 233-RAMP hotline.

Gerald R. Ford International Airport currently serves more than two million passengers annually. GFIA is the second busiest airport in Michigan and ranks among the top 15 percent of busiest airports nationwide.