June 2019 Marks Busiest Ever at Ford Airport

(Above): An Allegiant plane preps for a departure from the Gerald R. Ford International Airport. Allegiant started two new nonstop flights in June with service to Savannah-Hilton Head (SAV), and Nashville (BNA).

Grand Rapids, Mich. – June passenger numbers topped nine percent, and the month goes down as the busiest June in history at the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA).

Through June 2019, 1,770,050 passengers have traveled through the airport, and overall passenger traffic is up 11-percent from 2018 – the busiest year in GFIA history.

June 2019 saw 309,439 passengers compared to 282,863 in 2018. It also marks the busiest second quarter and busiest first half on record – also beating out 2018 totals. On average, 9,779 passengers are coming through the airport each day.

The Ford Airport has seen passenger increases in 71 of the last 78 months and 21 straight.

"2019 continues to be an impressive year and the growth we've seen in our community is concurrent to the growth at our airport," said GFIA Interim President & CEO Brian Picardat. "With new additions in air service, summer travel trends peaking upwards, and an overall satisfaction with our services at the Ford Airport we're continuing to see these numbers climb. "

Airline partner Allegiant started new nonstop service to Nashville (BNA), and Savannah-Hilton Head (SAV) in early June. Additionally, Allegiant started nonstop service to Sarasota-Bradenton (SRQ) in April, and is adding flights to New Orleans (MSY), and Jacksonville (JAX) in October.

With the growth, GFIA has invested in its facilities and is currently underway in Phase Two of its Gateway Transformation Project which includes updates to the baggage claim area, airline ticket counters, flooring and lighting; along with new restrooms and concessions. Updates on construction at the airport can be found here: https://www.grr.org/construction.php

As passenger numbers continue to grow at GFIA, those traveling are advised to arrive at the airport at least two hours before their flight. Updated security screening information, tips on what to pack/not pack, and more information to make security screening smoother are available at www.tsa.gov.

GFIA monthly passenger statistics are available on our website: https://www.flyford.org/history.php.

For interviews, please contact Tara Hernandez.

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About GFIA

The Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) is the second busiest airport in Michigan. The Airport served over 3.26 million passengers in 2018 and over 9,000 travelers pass through GFIA each day. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport offers nonstop service to 31 major market destinations with more than 140 daily nonstop flights. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport is managed and operated by the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority. GFIA generates over $3.1 billion in annual economic output throughout West Michigan, and employs over 2,000 people. For more information on GFIA visit: www.flyford.org or follow the airport on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter: @FlyGRFord