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Ford Airport Passenger Numbers Continue to Climb



Grand Rapids, Mich. – Looking to build on last year’s record 3.26 million passengers, the Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) started 2019 off right where 2018 left off. Despite the Polar Vortex at the end of January, the Airport still finished the month with a record number of passengers.

It was the busiest January ever at GFIA with 257,194 passengers. January 2019 saw 7-percent growth year-over-year. It was the first time GRIA has served over a quarter-million passengers in the month of January.

“We continue to be thankful for the support we receive from the West Michigan community,” said GFIA Interim President & CEO Brian Picardat. “The continued growth of the Ford Airport is a testament to the growth of West Michigan. The decision to fly through Grand Rapids also has a huge impact in attracting additional air service to meet increased passenger demand.”

Air service is already set to increase this year at GFIA. Airline partner Allegiant has announced three new nonstop destinations that will begin service in 2019 as well as the addition of a



maintenance base. Nonstop service to Sarasota-Bradenton (SRQ) will begin in April. Nonstop service to Nashville (BNA) and Savannah-Hilton Head (SAV) will begin in June.

As passenger numbers continue to grow at GFIA and around the country, those travelling 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:

<http://www.flyford.org/history.php>.

For interviews, please contact Alicia Roberts at the direct line above, or call the Airport Communications Center at 616-233-6055.

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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 8,000 travelers pass through GFIA each day. The Gerald R. Ford International Airport offers nonstop service to 29 major market destinations with more than 120 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