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Ford Airport Records 24th Consecutive Month of Growth



(Above): An American Airlines MD-80 preps for a departure from Grand Rapids (GRR) to Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW).

Grand Rapids, Mich. – The Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) has recorded its 24th consecutive month of passenger growth as September passenger numbers topped 10-percent. The month also goes down as the busiest September in airport history.

Through September 2019, 2,690,043 passengers have traveled through the airport – more than 2016’s total annual passengers. Overall traffic is up 10.59-percent from 2018 – the busiest year in GFIA history.

September 2019 saw 283,709 passengers compared to 255,888 in 2018. It also marks the busiest third quarter ever, beating out 2018 by nearly 81,000 passengers.

The Ford Airport has seen passenger increases in 74 of the last 81 months and 24 straight.

“The growth our airport has seen is just tremendous, and it is a testament to our stimulating community and vested airline partnerships,” said GFIA president & CEO Tory Richardson. “We still have three months to go in 2019 and we’re already close to topping our 2018 record. We look



forward to seeing what's to come as the year concludes, and we hope to continue delivering great service, more nonstop routes, and improved amenities and options for our travelers.”

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 32 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