



Las Vegas • McCarran International Airport

NEWS RELEASE

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McCarran International Airport Showcases First Major Construction Project Since 9/11

As the sixth busiest airport in the country, McCarran officials today showcased their first major construction project since 9/11. This project was one of many that were halted after 9/11, but because McCarran's passenger numbers were increasing at record levels the project was revived. As passenger counts continue to climb, the new northeast wing of the D Gates Satellite Concourse is a welcome addition that will meet capacity demands. McCarran's newest expansion totals approximately 139,880 square feet, houses 11 aircraft loading gates and features several concessions for travelers, including Starbucks Coffee, Chili's Too and Wolfgang Puck Express.

"We currently manage \$2.6 billion worth of construction projects for the sole purpose of meeting the demands of growth. Predicting passenger counts and when to expand airport facilities is not easy to accomplish but it's being done," stated Clark County Department of Aviation Director Randall H. Walker. Last year alone, McCarran witnessed month after month of record-breaking passenger counts with a year-end total of nearly 41.5 million. "Additional capacity is critical and each of the new 11 gates will accommodate up to 450,000 passengers a year."

The new wing also features a 160-foot-tall ramp control tower that will allow controllers more flexibility to process the movement of airplanes in and out of the gates safely and efficiently. The tower, located on the east side of the airfield, is 4,054 square feet and controllers will be responsible for cargo planes and all D gate aircraft movement arrivals and departures.

While the expansion is state-of-the-art, it also has several distinctive and environmentally friendly features. The ceiling known as "the bell," located in the back of the wing, has a unique sling blade design that allows sunlight to keep the concourse well lit while at the same time, requires less dependence on power. The windows have special film to keep the building cooler, which will result in lower operating costs. These, and a variety of other "smart features" were added to this \$125-million project resulting in an attractive, inviting and energy-efficient facility.

McCarran's commitment to the community is also evident with the latest in public art displays. The wing also includes art consisting of two large murals and 12 large-scale paper plane reproductions that were entirely designed by Clark County School District students.

The displayed murals are vibrant in color and represent the Las Vegas valley's surroundings. Las Vegas artist Harold Bradford painted "Triptych Passages," an oil and acrylic mural that is 8 feet high by 153 feet long and comprises of three canvas panels. The second mural by Henderson artist Roy Purcell created "Mojave Desert"---a panoramic mural of flora and fauna found in Red Rock Canyon, Valley of Fire, Hoover Dam and Mount Charleston areas.

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