



HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
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## **Huntsville International Airport Announces Phase I Opening of New Baggage Claim**

*Phase II completion expected summer 2012*

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala., June 9, 2011** – Huntsville International Airport today announced the first phase of the new baggage claim is tentatively scheduled to open to the public next week. The baggage claim expansion is the final leg of the airport's five-year, \$92 million capital improvement project. Designed by Chapman Sisson Architects, the more than \$24 million project was awarded to W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Company based in Philadelphia, MS.

After less than one year of construction, passengers will be greeted with expanded rental car offices, a Huntsville community mural, new tourism & information booth, two jumbotrons and other numerous amenities that will add to a modern-day design. While passengers operate within the first phase of the project, phase two will be ongoing, including demolition of the existing bag claim and construction to tie in the terminal building to the new structure.

According to Rick Tucker, Executive Director of the Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority, "The project will significantly expand the current baggage claim footprint and will transform the space to mirror the look and feel of the new public waiting area with vaulted, arched ceilings and a completely glass front façade. Upon completion in summer 2012, the new facility will encompass three new state-of-the-art baggage carousels and will serve the community's increasing transportation needs well into the future."

"We are extremely excited to showcase this new venue to the public," stated Betty Fletcher, Chairman of the Board of the Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority. "To look back over the last five years and see the transformation that the airport has undergone makes me very proud to be a part of this Board and serve our community. This is truly a first-class facility, and I am eager to witness the completion

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of phase two next year – just in time to celebrate the airport’s 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in its current location.”

As phase two of baggage claim approaches, passengers and motorists traveling along the terminal front will notice some major changes. Traffic has been reconfigured while an overhead bridge is built, which will connect the ongoing baggage claim expansion to the completed parking deck addition. As well, a number of the 10-minute parking spaces along the terminal front have been captured to make room for construction, leaving a limited number of spaces. Due to these temporary changes, the Airport Authority is offering the public 30 minutes free parking in the deck. Motorists are encouraged to meet arriving passengers on the ground level of the parking deck for ease of pick-up and exit, thereby avoiding the terminal front construction zone all together.

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