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Airports Authority Shows Progress Of Construction at Dulles Airport Terminal's New Security Screening Area and Train Station Toured

The thousands of passengers who come through Washington Dulles International Airport each day may be unaware of the massive construction project under their feet that will dramatically change the way they use Dulles Airport in the future.

Today, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority hosted a media tour to update the public on the ongoing construction at the Airport. The program, called D2, Dulles Development, has been in progress since 2001 with over \$3 billion dollars invested in improvements to date.

This is part of the Airports Authority's overall 15-year capital development program that is scheduled to invest a combined total of nearly \$7 billion dollars in projects at both Reagan National and Washington Dulles through the year 2016.

James E. Bennett, Airports Authority President and Chief Executive Officer, noted that "The Airports Authority continues to improve both of our airports through investment in our facilities. It's fair to say, however, that the majority of the investment will go to adapting and expanding Dulles Airport to keep our region's major international gateway an attractive, functional and modern airport. We have seen that the history of Dulles is one of constant evolution to meet the changes brought about by new technologies, world events, economic shifts in the airline industry, and the unique growth and economic development characteristics of the Washington region.

"Our challenge has always been to use this great resource of land on which Dulles sits for its best aviation purposes and to set the correct pace for development of our facilities and airfield. The last ten years have shown a steady and sustained growth of air service at Dulles, and we have every reason to believe that the future will see continued growth. That's why the AeroTrain system we are building is so important. It will make the trip from the Main Terminal to the aircraft gates more efficient and convenient."

Today the Main Terminal building at Dulles has two levels: one for ticket counters and security screening before passengers travel to the airline gates, and the other for bag claim and exiting to the parking lot in front of the Terminal.

In the future, there will be four levels -- Ticket counter, bag claim, security screening mezzanine, and the AeroTrain station. These last two areas are currently under construction below ground.

A key part of the AeroTrain system, the Main Terminal Station will become the transportation center of the Airport where passengers will connect via train to all the concourses. The Airports Authority will also take the opportunity to return the upper level of the Main Terminal to its original use as a ticket counter lobby with shops and restaurants accessible to the public.

Passengers who are boarding flights will travel below ground to a new security screening area which connects directly to the Train Station. The security mezzanine will provide an expanded security area to screen passengers more efficiently and alleviate congestion on the ticketing level.

The AeroTrain is scheduled to begin operating by the end of 2009.

Other major construction projects at Dulles include:

- A new 4th runway
- Improvements to the airport roadway system and connections to Route 28 and the Dulles Access Highway
- Expansion of Concourse B to add 12 new airline gates
- Expansion of the International Arrivals Building

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