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Contact: Public Affairs Office, 703-417-8370

Washington's Airports Served Nearly 42 Million Passengers in 2008

Highlights of 2008 Include Opening of New Runway and 15 New Gates at Dulles International, Restoration of Reagan National Terminal A

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority today released the 2008 passenger statistics for Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport. Together, Washington's airports served nearly 42 million passengers.

Reagan National served 18 million passengers in 2008, a 3.5 percent decrease from the record 18.7 million passengers served in 2007.

Dulles International served 23.9 million passengers in 2008, a 3.5 percent decrease from the 24.7 million passengers served in 2007.

International traffic at Dulles has risen every year since 2003. In 2008, Dulles served a record 6.2 million international passengers, a 4.9 percent increase from the 5.9 million international passengers served in 2007.

Record-high jet fuel prices combined with the overall downturn in the economy created a challenging year for the aviation industry in 2008. While an overall decline in passenger traffic at Washington's airports reflects industry trends, international passenger traffic at Dulles continued to grow and set a new record.

Significant projects at both airports were completed in 2008, including the restoration of the historic Terminal A façade at Reagan National and the opening of the Concourse B expansion and a new runway at Dulles. The capital construction program at Dulles International is moving forward so the Airport will have the capacity to accommodate long-term growth as the demand for air service in the metropolitan Washington region increases in the future.

The Airports Authority has long been committed to preserving the legacy of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. An 18-month restoration project completed in July 2008 gave an elegant facelift to the landside façade of the Airport's original building, Terminal A, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. That work provided much needed repairs to the concrete foundation, removal of existing paint, restoration of concrete, covering the surface with a new concrete coating, and restoration of the 1941 building windows.

Other projects completed at Reagan National in 2008 include updating restrooms in the terminals, improving lighting and carpeting in public spaces, and the construction of a new Airport Fire and Rescue station. Work also began on a parking garage expansion project that will add more than 1,400 new spaces to the parking garages when construction is completed in 2010.

Several milestone projects in the D2/ Dulles Development capital construction program were completed in 2008, including a new 15-gate expansion to Concourse B and several new concessions that opened in January. A new runway—the Airport's fourth—opened on November 20 along with a new Airport Fire and Rescue station.

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This is the first new runway to be built at Dulles since the Airport opened in 1962. Work began in April 2008 to add more than 206,000 square feet to the International Arrivals Building located in the Main Terminal, including enlarging the primary inspection hall and bag claim area. In addition, the Federal Inspection Facility located in Concourse C, which serves connecting international passengers, was enlarged and improved.

The centerpiece of the D2/ Dulles Development program is the AeroTrain, a new underground airport train system that will transport passengers between the Main Terminal and the Concourses. Work on the AeroTrain stations is nearly complete and testing of the entire train system is underway. The AeroTrain is scheduled to open later this year.

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