



**For Immediate Release:** December 30, 2008

## **New D/E Connector Welcomes Travelers at Philadelphia International Airport**

*Easier access, new amenities highlight building's features*

One-quarter of the passengers using Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) can now spend less time in security lines and enjoy shopping and eating at new concessions as the new Terminal D/E Connector has opened on the second floor Departures level. Starting today, travelers utilizing Terminals D and E, which account for a quarter of the Airport's passengers, will pass through a newly combined 14-lane security checkpoint to reach their departure gates. Once through security screening, they will be greeted by a scintillating array of retail shops accented by a wine bar and a sidewalk café.

It is a welcome experience for travelers who use two of the Airport's oldest terminals. The new Connector is especially helpful to passengers in Terminal E who can now access other areas of the Airport without having to go in and out of security.

"The Terminal D/E Connector represents another major milestone achieved toward our goal of providing the best Airport experience to our customers," said Rina Cutler, Deputy Mayor, Transportation and Utilities. "The new and expanded checkpoint allows passengers to get through the screening process faster so they aren't stressed about long lines, and they have time to relax, shop or get something to eat before their flight."

The new security checkpoint screening lanes are equipped with state-of-the-art X-ray technology that provides enhanced baggage screening. The systems use multiple X-ray angles and dual energy X-ray sources that provide clear, high-definition images, making it easier for security screeners to detect potential threat objects. The machines also enable screeners to zoom in on objects for a high-definition image and are equipped with automated detection capabilities. This advanced technology expedites the screening process, lessening the time passengers spend standing in security lines.

The new D/E Connector was necessary to upgrade an increasingly busy area of the Airport that was designed more than 35 years ago.

The new concessions feature a mix of national and local merchants, expanding a program recently named best in North America by Airports Council International. The D/E concessions

include Borders, Brookstone, Crocs, InMotion Entertainment, Lids/Lids Kids, Peet's Coffee & Tea, Sunglass Hut, Taxco Sterling, Tech Showcase, and Vino Volo.

The new D/E Connector also features the installation of permanent artwork, which will adorn two escalator walls in the D/E ticketing area. Gathering Contour Urban (Terminal D) and Gathering Contours Rural (Terminal E) consists of 84 framed panels, 42 on each side, presenting slate, apple sticks and reeds, painted and stenciled wood that is finished with sandblasted and plain glass. The art is a collaborative work by Elizabeth Billings and Andrea Wasserman from Vermont, who were selected through a juried competition in 2006.

Southwest Airlines, the nation's largest domestic carrier, arrived in Philadelphia in 2004 and started with 2 gates in Terminal E. It has since added 2 more gates in E, 4 gates in Terminal D and is taking over 4 more gates in E previously occupied by Delta Air Lines.

Low-fare carrier Air Tran is also in Terminal D along with United, Continental, and Air Canada. Northwest Airlines has its gates in Terminal E.

The opening of the security checkpoint and concessions is the first phase of a \$300 million project, which also includes:

- 23 additional ticket counter positions in the two ticket
- A 50,000 square foot baggage makeup area with 8 in-line Explosive Detection System (EDS) machines
- A fan-shaped extension at the end of Concourse E with three new aircraft gates
- A 9,000 square-foot D/E bag claim connector with two new carousels

When the project is completed in 2010, a total of 222,000 square feet will have been added to the 2.4 million square foot terminal complex.

*Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$14 billion in spending to the regional economy and employing a workforce of nearly 42,000. Visit the official Philadelphia International Airport website at [www.phl.org](http://www.phl.org)*