

Passenger Advisory: Airport Parking Experiencing Growing Pains

For immediate release

Tampa, Fla. (June 6, 2000) - - Success unfortunately also brings some difficulties. The continued growth of airline travel has increased Airport parking traffic to a level where the parking facilities are experiencing capacity problems and congestion during peak hours.

The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority (HCAA) has been preparing and planning for the future development of Tampa International Airport. The recently completed Master Plan Update focused on expanding the existing Airport Terminal Complex to accommodate 25 million passengers through the year 2020, while still maintaining the highest level of service for Airport users.

According to Louis E. Miller, Executive Director, HCAA, "We have anticipated that the total cost of the next twenty-year Airport development program will cost approximately \$1.03 billion. During the first five-year phase of development, we'll spend \$350 million to construct facilities to meet the demands of our growing Tampa Bay community."

Included is the construction of a new Remote Economy Parking Lot located near the Airport post office. This new 2100 space facility is scheduled to open in August, but until then - - parking at the Airport will occasionally be a challenge.

Short Term Parking reaches capacity usually on Wednesday and Thursday during the noontime rush and again in the late afternoon before 5:00 p.m. Long Term Parking starts to fill late Thursday and remains congested through Saturday.

Parking personnel actively manage garage traffic and direct customers to available parking. However, available spaces may not always be in preferred locations and may take more time than normal to find.

Airport patrons who will need parking during these peak periods should allow more time to make their airline connections. Those who can make alternate plans, using a taxi or a limo service instead of driving to the Airport, are encouraged to do so.

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