

Walk this Way at TPA

For immediate release

Tampa, Fla. (July 6, 2000) - - The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority is offering yet another option for Airport patrons to choose from when looking for ways to save time while using Tampa International Airport. On July 6, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. two new pedestrian bridges will open connecting the Landside Terminal Building to the Long Term Parking Garage.

These two 120-foot walkways are covered, open-air bridges that allow Airport visitors to pass through a tropical garden of palm trees integrating nature with architecture. The project's design extends an aviation theme -- the covered walkways are reminiscent of an airplane's wing.

"Keeping with the Airport's passenger-friendly design, the bridges are another option for our customers to travel from Airport parking to their gate," explained Louis E. Miller, Executive Director, Hillsborough County Aviation Authority. "These time-saving bridges are perfect for the traveler who just has a couple of carry-on bags."

The four-month construction project cost \$2.1 million. The architect was Rañon & Partners, Inc. and general contractor was J. H. Sultenfuss, Inc., both of Tampa.

The amount of concrete used in constructing the bridges equals 14,318 lineal feet which could build a 2.71 mile sidewalk. Additionally, the bridges were "shoehorned" into place. There is less than a three-inch clearance between the roof of the new bridges and the underside of the existing vehicle ramps of the Landside Terminal Building.

The Aviation Authority 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.

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, the Aviation Authority will spend \$350 million to construct facilities to meet the demands of our growing Tampa Bay community.

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