The Final Beam

Following the tradition for "topping out" a building under construction, DIA celebrated the placement of the final steel beam for the airport's new Westin Hotel.

On May 22, 2014, Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock placed the last bolt securing the beam as it was lowered into place on the building's steel frame. Some 10 stories below, on the unpaved surface of what will be an outdoor plaza, a crowd...
comprising hundreds of construction workers, airport employees, and invited guests watched via live video feed as the mayor and a handful of steelworkers completed the hotel's steel skeleton.

Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock (left foreground) looks at the last bolts needed for the last steel beam to be installed at the top of the new Westin DIA Hotel, now under construction. Hancock placed the last bolt as part of a "topping-out" ceremony on May 22, 2014.

Prior to the installation, Mayor Hancock, DIA Chief Executive Officer Kim Day, Denver City Councilman Chris Herndon, Westin Hotel and Resorts officials, Hotel and Transit Center program managers, and workers signed the 38-foot, 1,800-pound steel beam, which was lifted by crane to its position atop the new structure.

Hancock said the HTC program is providing work for thousands of men and women in Colorado and supporting more than 320 construction firms and businesses. "This is an important milestone for this project, these workers and for DIA," he told the crowd. "There's one word that I think of when I go into and out of DIA and see the construction. That word is opportunity," added the mayor.

Day said the HTC will generate $3 to $4 million of revenue for the airport each year. "We are building a quality project that complements and reflects the quality of the original terminal, and one that perpetuates the pride our community has for this amazing airport," she said.

---

**Flights to Sun Valley**
Starting July 2, 2014, United Airlines will bring Sun Valley, Idaho, closer to Colorado when it begins offering a daily nonstop flight between Denver and Friedman Memorial Airport (SUN), located in Hailey, Idaho, which is 13 miles south of Sun Valley.

---

- The first transatlantic flight was over several days (May 8-31) in 1919. A Curtiss seaplane, NC-4, piloted by Walter Hinton, crossed the Atlantic flying from the United States to Newfoundland, then to the Azores Islands, and on to Lisbon, Portugal. The whole journey took 23 days. NC-4 was the only one of three United States Navy aircraft that started the flight to complete the journey.
- Over May 2-3, 1923, Lts. John A. Macready and Oakley Kelly made the first nonstop transcontinental flight, flying from New York to San Diego (more than 2,500 miles). They flew in a single-engine Fokker T-2 aircraft for 26 hours and 50 minutes.
- Leaving from Spitsbergen, Norway, Lt. Comdr. Richard E. Byrd (navigator) and Floyd Bennett (pilot) accomplished the
An ironworker waits for the last steel beam to be lifted from the ground so he and coworkers can install it at the top of the new Westin DIA Hotel to finish the structure's frame. The beam is 38 feet long and weighs 1,800 pounds. Several hundred workers and dignitaries signed the beam to celebrate the hotel's "topping out."

Councilman Herndon, whose district includes DIA, lauded the potential of the HTC's 82,000-square-foot open-air plaza, which will be a new gathering place and a venue for cultural events. "The plaza truly integrates the airport with the community," he said.

The Westin DIA Hotel will be owned by the airport and operated by Westin Hotels and Resorts. In addition to offering 519 guest rooms located less than 200 feet from the terminal, the new hotel will have 12 meeting rooms, banquet and ballroom space, and a fitness center and pool on the hotel's 11th floor.

Tom Curley, Starwood Hotels and Resorts area managing director said, "When this hotel opens, guests will be treated to Westin's signature blend of sophistication and rejuvenation, designed to send them home feeling even better than when they arrived."

Twenty-two hundred tons of structural steel has gone into the Hotel and Transit Center. On average, it has taken 4.5 to 6 minutes to install a structural steel beam.

first polar flight on May 8-9, 1926. Using a tri-motor Fokker airplane, they made the roundtrip over the North Pole in 15 hours and 30 minutes.

Contributors
Laura Coale – Writer
Steve Klodt – Chief Editor
Heath Montgomery – Writer
Ken Mostek - Photographer
Julie Smith – Writer

Hotel and Transit Center construction workers at DIA pose as part of the "topping out" celebration held May 22, 2014, to mark the placement of the last beam of the new hotel's building frame.
To Panama City Nonstop

At the southern border of Panama you can straddle two continents.

From East to West, at Panama’s narrowest spot, only 51 miles separate the Atlantic (Caribbean Sea) and Pacific oceans.

You’ll be able to experience this unique country for yourself starting in December 2014 when United Airlines, subject to government approval, will begin flying nonstop from Denver to Panama City—Panama’s capital and largest metropolis.

Panama City extends south from the Panama Canal’s Pacific entrance. The historical part of town—Casco Viejo—is a walled city that was named a World Heritage Site in 1997. There, beneath Ancon Hill, jutting into Panama Bay, this old city section retains its Spanish Colonial origins, expressed through its 16th and 17th century architecture. Casco Viego coexists alongside the burgeoning contemporary Panama City and its skyscrapers.

The new air service will begin Dec. 3, 2014, and thereafter operate daily November through August and five times weekly in September and October, offering Denver-area travelers access not only to the Panamanian capital but also to several additional cities in Central and South America through connections offered by United’s Star Alliance partner, Copa Airlines.

Preliminary estimates show that the Denver-Panama City service will generate between $35 million and $40 million in annual economic impact to Colorado and will create more than 400 new jobs.

Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock welcomed the new flight. “Today, nearly 350 people a day travel between Colorado and South America. We anticipate this service will stimulate additional travel, and we already look forward to the increased tourism, cultural and business connections this new service will provide.”

State of DIA 2014

Fiscal stability and investing in the future were two primary themes that Denver International Airport CEO Kim Day addressed during the sixth annual State of DIA luncheon on April 29.
“Our fiscal stability is the envy of the industry,” Day said. “We are outperforming our financial plan, and have enough reserves to meet our future challenges, and to respond, with confidence, to the unexpected.”

Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock, who introduced Day—the event’s keynote speaker—noted the airport’s success and said DIA is a “nationally and internationally recognized airport that is driving economic achievement for the Denver metro area, state of Colorado and Rocky Mountain region.”

Mayor Hancock reminded the audience that DIA must stay ahead of global challengers. “The work being done today to improve facilities, services and connections will further deliver a globally competitive airport for decades to come,” he said. “We must remain committed to investing in this asset to meet the very real demands of an evolving aviation industry head on and deliver on the great potential of DIA.”

Day reiterated the mayor’s message about DIA staying competitive by stating the airport’s recently developed vision for the future. “Our new vision is for your airport to become America’s favorite connecting hub, where the Rocky Mountains meet the world,” Day told her audience. “It’s a platform upon which we can grow our passenger base, strengthen and sustain our economic impact, and establish an improved place in the global market,” she added.

Day highlighted several DIA achievements that have demonstrated its commitment to providing exceptional service for passengers and also expanded DIA’s worldwide connectivity.

“We're anticipating the changing needs of our customers, focusing on further
expanding our network, and developing additional revenue to keep the cost to our airline partners competitive, while maintaining our spectacular facility,” Day said.

“When the Mayor came into office, he challenged us to increase our international destinations. We now serve 25 cities in 9 countries - a 40 percent increase under the Hancock administration,” she said. In 2013, DIA's volume of international passengers grew 13 percent.

Federal Aviation Administrator Michael P. Huerta was the guest speaker at the luncheon, and his theme was pioneering advances in NextGen technology and procedures. He said there is no better place to talk about aviation technology than at Denver International Airport.

"DIA is a place where innovation happens,” he said. "Whether it's safety or efficiency or the greening of aviation, I know that if big things are happening, DIA is likely leading the pack. In the wide open spaces of the Rocky Mountains, there's always been a belief in limitless opportunity. This can-do spirit is what created Denver International."

Huerta said that Denver air travelers are enjoying the benefits of NextGen technology, which is revolutionizing flight procedures. "Here in Denver, we have 51 of these satellite-based NextGen procedures. We estimate that the use of these procedures will save operators up to $9.8 million dollars per year, by using up to 3.2 million gallons less fuel.” NextGen allows equipped aircraft to fly on more direct paths across the country and to fly safely in congested airspace.

Huerta told the luncheon attendees that fuel savings for United Airlines alone are estimated to be between 14 and 21 gallons of fuel for each satellite-based arrival flown into DIA. Because United flew about 120 of these arrivals into DIA each day last year, it saved a minimum 1,700 gallons of fuel a day. "With the price of jet fuel around three dollars a gallon," Huerta added, “the savings can really add up.”

The presenting sponsor of the 2013 State of DIA luncheon was Mortensen-Hunt-Saunders Tri-Venture. Additional support was provided by the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation and the Metro Denver Aviation Coalition. A copy of Kim Day's remarks is available online at State of the Airport. Follow this link to read Michael Huerta’s speech.
FAA Administrator Michael P. Huerta, guest speaker at the State of DIA luncheon on April 29, gave an address titled: “Pioneering Advances in NextGen.”

**Partnerships**

At the State of DIA luncheon, Denver International Airport CEO Kim Day presented a pair of DIA Team Partner in Aviation awards to two FAA sections that have collaborated closely with the airport.

Denver International Airport CEO Kim Day (right) gave DIA Team Partner awards to John Bauer (left) and his FAA team at the Federal Aviation Administration Denver Airport District Office and to the Denver Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON). The TRACON award
The first award went to the Denver Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) facility "in recognition of their partnership and dedication demonstrated in designing and implementing NextGen initiatives to optimize arrival and departure procedures that optimize safety, efficiency and sustainability throughout the Denver Airspace System."

The second partnership award went to John Bauer and his FAA team at the Federal Aviation Administration Denver Airport District Office. The award was given to acknowledge "unprecedented collaboration" between DIA and the FAA to "maintain an airport of the highest level of safety and security" as well as positioning it for growth and optimization of DIA's role in the national airspace system.

**Fly Farther and to More Places**

DIA's international nonstop destinations have increased by nearly 40 percent since July 2011. You can now fly to a total of 24 cities in 10 countries. New destinations added over this time are:

- Reykjavik, Iceland (Icelandair in May 2012)
- Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (Frontier Airlines in June 2012)
- Tokyo-Narita, Japan (United Airlines in June 2013)
- Montego Bay, Jamaica (Frontier Airlines in December 2013)
- Guadalajara, Mexico (Volaris in July 2014)
- Chihuahua, Mexico (Volaris in July 2014)
- Panama City, Panama (United in December 2014)

As a result of these new services, international passenger traffic has risen significantly at Denver International Airport.

- In 2013, international passenger traffic increased by 13 percent; this was on an overall decline in passenger traffic at DIA by 1 percent
- Worldwide, international passenger traffic increased by 5 percent in 2013, and international passenger traffic in North America increased by only 3 percent

Denver has outperformed global and North American international passenger volume growth significantly.

- In the first three months of 2014, international passenger traffic at Denver has increased by 24.6 percent

**Icelandair**

Icelandair's nonstop flights to and from Reykjavik will be daily in the summer of 2014 (May 31 through September 10), increasing frequency from the four weekly flights when the airline started serving Denver in 2012.

The new Icelandair service significantly stimulated the Denver-Reykjavik market; stimulation levels reached a peak of 4,455 percent during the first year of service. Reykjavik now ranks as Denver's eighth-largest market in Europe, up from its ranking of 98th before service began.

**United and Tokyo**

Denver's first-ever nonstop service to Asia was launched in June 2013 when United Airlines inaugurated a daily nonstop flight to Tokyo's Narita Airport aboard the Boeing 787-8. Overall, passenger travel between Denver and Tokyo has grown by 50 percent since the route's first day. Other Asian markets, including Singapore,
Bangkok and Manila, have also been stimulated significantly.

**Volaris**

Volaris entered the Denver market in December 2012 with nonstop service to Mexico City. It is expanding its Mexico scope in July when it inaugurates nonstop service to Guadalajara and Chihuahua. These markets are currently not served from Denver.

**British Airways**

In 2013, British Airways celebrated 15 years of nonstop service between London and Denver. This is a great example of how a carrier has demonstrated a long-term commitment to a market. The world economy and aviation have changed significantly since British Airways' Sept. 1, 1998 Denver inaugural, yet the airline daily continues to link the Mile High City and our largest European market: London (flying into Heathrow). Over this 15-year period the service has generated $2.2 billion in economic impact to Colorado's economy, supporting 1,300 jobs annually and generating $694 million in wages.

**Solar IV**

DIA is on track to open its fourth solar-power array this summer.

"Denver International Airport has made a commitment to invest in sustainability," said Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock. "The airport supports energy conservation and green technologies—such as solar arrays, alternative-fuel vehicles and systems that collect and recycle aircraft deicing fluid—because of the associated cost savings, and because it's the right thing to do for DIA and for future generations."
Think of the electricity needed to power a typical Denver house and multiply that by 750—that's how much electricity the airport's Solar IV complex is capable of producing annually. The new array of solar panels is a being installed on the north side of DIA's property and can generate up to 2 megawatts, or 3 million kilowatt-hours of solar electricity annually, and has the capacity to offset an estimated 4.9 million pounds of greenhouse-gas emissions each year.

When it's completed this summer, the array will bring DIA's total solar-generating capacity to 10 megawatts, or 16 million kilowatt-hours—among the most of any U.S. airport.

"Colorado continues to be recognized as a leader in wind, solar and geothermal energy," Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper said. "DIA is also recognized as a leader among U.S. airports for its commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship."

Oak Leaf Energy Partners is the developer for the project. Solar IV will cost about $6 million, which will be paid by its owner: Denver Solar IV, LLC. Over a 20-year period, DIA will buy the electricity generated by the new array at a cost per kilowatt-hour that is less than the average cost DIA pays to Xcel Energy for electricity.

Some of the electricity generated by Solar IV will be used directly at DIA; excess electricity will be sold to Xcel Energy's grid. The electricity used at DIA will provide 100 percent of the Denver Fire Department's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Training Academy's electrical needs. Constructed in 2001, the training academy has
a 75-foot mock-up aircraft that is rigged to burst into flame for firefighting training and has two actual regional aircraft used for emergency training.

**Memorial Day Every Day in Washington, D.C.**

Inscribed at the base of the flagpoles at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., are the words:

**AMERICANS CAME TO LIBERATE, NOT TO CONQUER, TO RESTORE FREEDOM AND TO END TYRANNY**

Through many wars and armed encounters, American men and women have devoted themselves to preserving, restoring, or establishing freedom—selflessly—by sacrificing their lives or at a great personal cost.

Dedicated in 1998, the Spirit of Freedom sculpture by Ed Hamilton is a tribute to the African American soldiers and sailors who fought for freedom in the Civil War. The bronze sculpture is 10 feet tall and is situated in the center of a granite-paved plaza encircled on three sides by a wall of honor that lists the names of 209,145 black troops who served in the war. Photo Courtesy of National Park Service.

Our nation's capital is a city of monuments and memorials—some grand and some unassuming. Visits to the major war memorials can be one way of expressing honor
and remembrance. The World War II Memorial is on the Mall at the east end of the reflecting pool. Within walking distance are the Vietnam Veterans and Korean War Veterans memorials—opposite each other on the north and south sides of the reflecting pool, near the Lincoln Memorial.

![The World War II Memorial—located on the Mall in Washington, D.C.](image)

You can honor veterans of a much older war by heading to Vermont Avenue near Howard University and visiting the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum. For more information: [African American Civil War](http://www.afroamcivilwar.org)

You might conclude a day of remembrance with a sojourn to Arlington National Cemetery and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which pays tribute to a serviceman who was killed in World War I.

![The Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Photo Courtesy of National Park Service.](image)

**The Transformation of Union Station**

Denver's new Union Station Bus Concourse opened May 9 with great fanfare.

The Regional Transportation District and its many partners in the redevelopment of Denver Union Station celebrated the grand opening, attended by hundreds of people. The new concourse began operations on May 11 when the Market Street bus station permanently closed after 30 years of service.

The new bus concourse is a part of the Union Station Transit Center, which also includes stations for light rail, Amtrak and new commuter rail lines, one of which is the East Rail Line to DIA, scheduled to open in 2016.

The new commuter rail and Amtrack tracks and platforms, called the train hall, are located west of Union Station. They are dramatically showcased by a sweeping white canopy that has an oculus at the center to maintain the view down 17th street and of the historic Union Station building (seen in the background). The train hall, which will provide service for the East Rail Line (to DIA), Gold Line, and Northwest Rail Line in 2016 and North Metro Rail Line in 2018, sits above the new underground bus concourse.
Helicopter Tour of the East Rail Line

You can get a unique view of the new commuter rail line route to Denver International Airport from Union Station by taking a helicopter tour via the Web. Follow this link (KUNC helicopter tour-future-commuter-line-DIA) to get an aerial perspective of the tracks from downtown all the way to the new station being built at DIA. Several sections of the rail line have been built (from Interstate 70 parallel along Peña Boulevard approaching Jeppesen Terminal, for example), but construction remains for many areas between downtown and the bridge over I-70.

Some Airlines Begin Adding Craft Beers to Beverage Selections

Taking a commercial flight does not mean you have to forgo a handcrafted brew when you want to slake your thirst.

Craft brewer labels are starting to show up on domestic airlines' beverage menus, as air carriers mirror a trend in the United States and increasingly offer beers from craft brewers.

The Brewer's Association reports that craft brewers sold an estimated 15.6 million barrels of beer in 2013 (one barrel equals 31 gallons), up from 13.2 million in 2012. The craft brewing sales share in the United States in 2013 was 7.8 percent by volume and 14.3 percent by dollars.

Last year, of all domestic breweries that operated some or all of the time, 2,768 were craft breweries. The total number of breweries, 2,822, was the highest total in the United States since the 1870s.

Colorado brewers are well represented on air carriers. New Belgium's Fat Tire Amber Ale can be found on both Frontier and Southwest airlines' flights. Golden, Colorado's Blue Moon label is offered by Delta. Frontier also gives its passengers Dale's Pale Ale, bottled by Oskar Blues Brewery in Longmont.

Craft beers from other parts of the country can be found on several other airlines. You will find Alaskan Amber Ale and Kona Longboard Island Lager (from Hawaii) on Alaskan Airlines (the Kona lager on Hawaii flights only).

Brooklyn Lager is offered by JetBlue. Boston's Samuel Adams Boston Lager is a beer selection on JetBlue and American airlines. Saint Louis brew Shock Top is currently available on US Airways.

Airlines' Beer Selections

Alaskan: Alaskan Amber Ale, Budweiser, Miller Lite, Corona (Mexico flights only); Kona Longboard Island Lager (Hawaii flights only)

American: Budweiser, Bud Light, Miller Genuine Draft, Miller Light, Heineken, Corona and Samuel Adams Boston Lager.

Delta: Corona Extra, Heineken, Miller Lite, Blue Moon

Frontier: Coors Light, Fat Time Amber Ale, Dale's Pale Ale
JetBlue: Brooklyn Lager, Blue Moon, Bud Light, Heineken, Corona Extra, Samuel Adams Boston Lager (Boston Beer Company)

Southwest: Bud Light, Miller Lite, Heineken, Corona Extra, Fat Tire

United: Budweiser, Miller Lite, Heineken

US Airways: Bud Light, Budweiser, Dos Equis, Heineken, Shock Top