DIA Celebrates Midpoint of Hotel and Transit Center Construction

Beneath the freshly welded steel of a new 360-ton train platform canopy, the midpoint of DIA's new 519-room hotel and transit center was commemorated.

Scaffolding and a 360-ton steel and glass canopy being installed over the new commuter train station platform at DIA are illuminated with blue and white lights—creating an image of abstract art. The light show was part of the Oct. 8 Hotel and Transit Center midpoint celebration.

Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock and Manager of Aviation Kim Day placed a 50-year...
time capsule in the concrete floor of the transit center, where commuter rail and bus passengers will arrive and depart beginning in 2016.

The capsule contains items from Mayor Hancock, DIA employees, Visit Denver, the state of Colorado, Westin Hotels and Resorts, the Regional Transportation District, the FAA, the TSA, Customs and Border Protection, the Denver Chamber of Commerce, the building program's workers, and several airlines: British Airways, Frontier, Icelandair, JetBlue, Lufthansa, Southwest, Spirit and United. The capsule will remain buried beneath the floor until at least 2063.

Denver International Airport Department of Aviation employees sign the outside of a 50-year time capsule that was placed in the floor of the new transit center for all RTD buses and commuter rail — part of a construction program for a 519-room hotel and public plaza that is being built at the airport.

Two years into the $544 million Hotel and Transit Center Program (formerly called the South Terminal Redevelopment Program), the hotel's two elevator cores and train platform are complete, the elevated roadways leading to Terminal West have been rebuilt, the train platform canopy has been installed and concrete for the complex's first four floors has been poured. Iron workers and welders are beginning to piece together the public plaza canopy.

Day publicly recognized the vision and hard work it took to reach this point, and thanked former Denver mayors Federico Peña, Wellington Webb, John Hickenlooper and Guillermo “Bill” Vidal, and she acknowledged Mayor Hancock's contributions and support. She expressed appreciation for the program's hardworking employees and contractors, DIA's supportive business partners and other community leaders.
More than 300 guests attended the Hotel and Transit Center construction midpoint commemoration on the unfinished ground floor of the new transit center at DIA. On the evening of Oct. 8, attendees witnessed the sealing of a 50-year time capsule which was placed in the floor of the transit center.

Program construction began in late 2011, and will employ as many as 700 people by the time work is finished. The hotel is on track to open in Fall 2015 and the new RTD commuter rail line is scheduled to begin service in 2016. Mayor Hancock said the rail line will be "connecting our city to the future."

Currently, 260 firms have secured contracts to work on the program, including 227 local firms (87 percent) and 107 minority- and women-owned businesses (M/WBE) (41 percent).

"With more than 100 minority- and women-owned businesses under contract, DIA's Hotel and Transit Center Program is one of the single largest opportunities for the M/WBE community in the city's history," said Mayor Hancock. "It's one of the many ways DIA contributes to the overall vitality of Colorado's economic health. As the primary economic engine for the state, DIA provides a critical link for businesses and travelers."
Starwood Hotels area managing director (left), and Maja Rosenquist, vice president and general manager at Mortenson Construction (next to Curley), seal a time capsule as part of DIA's midpoint celebration for the Hotel and Transit Center Program. The capsule will not be opened until at least 2063.

"To mark this occasion," Day said, "We are burying a time capsule, which we hope will show those who unearth it, the foresight and the thoughtfulness of our community as we prepare this airport for those who will follow us."

Among the items that will be revealed to 2063 citizens are:

- Smartphone
- USB Thumb Drive
- Jeppesen Navigational Chart
- Postcards from each international destination served
- Model of a Boeing 787

Some of the contents that Denver International Airport placed inside a time capsule were a smartphone, USB thumb drive, Jeppesen navigational chart for DIA and a model of a Boeing 787 aircraft. The time capsule, buried in the floor of the airport's new transit center, will not be opened until at least 2063.

Mayor Hancock donated a Denver Broncos jersey given to him with the number 45—corresponding with Hancock's place in Denver's history as its 45th mayor. He also contributed a challenge coin from his office—the first one minted.
Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock (at lectern) talked about DIA’s Hotel and Transit Center Program, the commuter train that will link DIA to downtown Denver, the significant percentage of local businesses that are working on the program (87 percent), and the 107 minority- or women-owned firms with contracts (41 percent of all contractors). He also told the audience some of the items that were placed in a 50-year time capsule and offered a Denver Broncos jersey with his name and the number 45 (he is Denver's 45th mayor).

A complete listing of items included in the time capsule is available here. The Hotel and Public Transit Center Program—with three major projects—will complete the original vision for the airport and is the first investment in DIA’s Airport City initiative. Joining the Westin hotel and conference center will be a transit center serving RTD buses and RTD's new East Rail Line (which will be a 35-minute connection between DIA and downtown Denver's Union Station) and a public plaza for arts, entertainment and relaxation.

Terminal East Construction Impacts
Progress continues on DIA's Hotel and Transit Center Program. In early November, crews will begin demolishing and rebuilding the east elevated roadways for levels 4 and 6 (Level 5 was already rebuilt and will remain the same). Construction detours
on the east side of Jeppesen Terminal will have minimal impacts to motorists and will only affect drivers exiting Terminal East levels 4 and 6.

- Drivers exiting Level 4 (Arrivals) will encounter a minor detour through the garage and out to Peña Boulevard.
- Level 6 (Departures) motorists will exit via a temporary ramp to the new Level 5 roadway.
- Level 5 traffic (ground transportation) will not change and will remain in its current configuration.

**Now's a Great Time to Visit Estes Park**

Estes Park, a beautiful mountain hamlet, lies within a Colorado mountain valley and sits at the east gate of Rocky Mountain National Park.

![The village of Estes Park is located just outside Rocky Mountain National Park.](image)

It was one of the many Colorado communities that suffered flooding in September and needs a transfusion of tourists to recover economically. Most of Estes Park's lodging and its shops and restaurants were either untouched from the swollen Big Thompson and Fall rivers or have been repaired and reopened, so it remains a great autumn destination, and a visit there is a way to help the community.
Wildlife, golf, and the Stanley Hotel—just some of the attractions in Estes Park.

Although two highways into town have been damaged and are impassable until reconstructed, access has been restored along Colorado 7, via the Peak to Peak Scenic Byway—a route that goes through Black Hawk, Nederland and Allenspark. For directions from Denver, follow this link: Peak to Peak Highway.
Rocky Mountain National Park—previously closed because of the federal government shutdown—has reopened. The park was damaged in some spots by the recent flooding and heavy rains, but many areas are open, including Bear Lake Road, Lumpy Ridge, Upper Beaver Meadows, Longs Peak Road, and Wild Basin Road to the winter parking. Check the park’s website for detailed information and current alerts:
http://www.nps.gov/romo/index.htm
Elk bugling is common during rutting season. Estes Park in the autumn is a great location to see elk.

Even if you don't visit the park, you can play golf, or horseback ride, or take advantage of many family activities the town offers. You can check out the Stanley Hotel and one of its ghost tours. The annual elk rut has not been deterred by last month's violent weather, and prime viewing spots of some of the estimated 3,000 elk in and around Estes are easy to find. Rocky Mountain Nature Association ([www.rmna.org](http://www.rmna.org)) is continuing its Elk Expeditions and outdoor seminars as scheduled. Outdoor enthusiasts can also enjoy:

- **Trekking** - The Lake Estes Trail is open, as are hiking trails in the Estes Valley and Rocky Mountain National Park
- **Fishing** - Anglers can access Marys Lake, Fall River and the Big Thompson River, within Estes Valley
- **Rock climbing** - Routes are open around Marys Lake and the Thumb and Needle crags on Prospect Mountain. Additional routes can be recommended by area outfitters
- **Jeep tours** - They continue to run in and around the Estes Valley

Estes has all the indoor pastimes that you would expect a resort town to have. There are numerous restaurants and lounges, plus spas and heated pools. The town's shops and boutiques just might have the intriguing gift you hope to find for Christmas or Hanukkah.
Dream Lake is just one of many scenic lakes that you can hike to in Rocky Mountain National Park.

If you'd like to help with the flood recovery efforts in Estes Park, a clearinghouse can connect volunteers with available opportunities. For details on these activities, a list of open businesses, and flood recovery information on Estes Park, visit: [www.visitestespark.com/ColoradoFlood](http://www.visitestespark.com/ColoradoFlood).

**Final Approach – DIA Reimagines Cell Phone Waiting Lot**

Denver International Airport has a new cell phone waiting lot. But it's more than just a mere parking lot.

Called “Final Approach,” this just-unwrapped new waiting area not only has 253 parking spaces (132 percent more than the old lot) but also four restaurants, free Wi-Fi (in the building and parking lot), a children's seating area and indoor restrooms (no more portable units).
Located next to the Conoco gas station, Final Approach is an innovative new facility that brings food, fuel and state-of-the-art amenities to drivers waiting to pick up arriving passengers. It sets a new bar for airports, where cell phone waiting areas have long been a staple. DIA’s previous waiting area is now permanently closed.

The facility’s four new dining choices are:

- Baja Fresh Mexican Grill
- Dunkin’ Donuts - which includes a 24-hour drive-thru
- Subway
- Zpizza (which uses organic ingredients)

Additionally, Final Approach offers:

- Lounge seating (for those blustery winter nights)
- Access to digital games for kids through iPads built into tabletops
- Convenient access to the adjacent Conoco fueling station and convenience store

“Our customers asked for enhanced service, and we are delivering,” said Kim Day, Denver’s manager of aviation. “This is just one of the innovative projects that is improving the experience for our passengers and maintaining our reputation as one of the world’s best airports.”

If you are picking up a passenger and want to use Final Approach, you can easily access the facility from eastbound Peña Boulevard by taking the 75th Avenue exit, turning left (north) at the first intersection you come to—Gun Club Road—driving underneath Peña Boulevard to 77th Avenue. At 77th, turn left from Gun Club Road.

You can also reach Final Approach (7684 N. Wenatchee St.) several ways from outbound Peña Boulevard: Gun Club Road, Wenatchee Street, and 78th Avenue. New signs are posted along access routes.

The cost of the approximately $7 million facility was paid for entirely by the site operator, Pacific Convenience & Fuels, with no cost to the airport or taxpayers. The facility is expected to generate more than $421,000 in revenue to the airport in its first year and will create about 120 jobs.
Three new restaurants open at Final Approach

Inside Final Approach, drivers waiting to pick up arriving passengers can order food from any of four restaurants: Baja Fresh Mexican Grill, Dunkin’ Donuts, Subway, and Zpizza. Monitors conveniently show DIA’s flight arrival times.

“Guests and travelers visiting the new food court and cell phone waiting lot will be greeted by a wide variety of high-quality food and exceptional service,” said John Sweeney, general manager of restaurant operations for Buon Hospitality, a division of Pacific Convenience & Fuels.

Final Approach’s lobby is open from 5 a.m. to midnight. Each restaurant has different hours; Dunkin’ Donuts drive-thru window will operate 24-hours a day.

Denver International Airport to Add Five Gates to Concourse C

Construction has begun at Denver International Airport to expand the existing C concourse to the west, adding five new gates (C23 through C27). This new 39,000-square-foot extension will be designed as an airy, light-filled, easy-to-navigate space. Southwest Airlines plans to relocate some of its Concourse A gates to the new expansion on Concourse C, where the majority of its flights are currently located. Construction is expected to be completed in November 2014.

“Denver ranks as Southwest Airline’s fastest-growing station in the carrier’s history,” said Manager of Aviation Kim Day. “They have grown their business from January 2006, when they offered 13 daily flights to three destinations to a Denver network today of more than 160 daily flights to nearly 60 nonstop destinations.”
DIA is building five aircraft gates at Concourse C's west end. The gates will be used by Southwest Airlines.

DIA will pay for the project using airport capital improvement project funds, which are generated through airport revenues, not the city's general fund or taxpayer money. Three contractors will work on the $46 million expansion, providing building construction, apron paving and interior work. From among the existing on-call contractors with the lowest bid, DIA selected Milender White for building the foundation, walls, windows and roof. The second contractor, IHC, was selected through a competitive bid process for apron concrete paving, where the aircraft will taxi and park. The building interior and HVAC (heating ventilation and air conditioning) systems contract will be bid among existing on-call contractors.

**CDOT Study: DIA a $26.3 Billion Economic Engine for Colorado Each Year**

Denver International Airport has grown to become a $26.3 billion economic engine for Colorado and a critical link for businesses and travelers, according to a new report by the Colorado Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics.

The *2013 Economic Impact Study for Colorado Airports*, which was released Sept. 30 by CDOT, shows that DIA's critical role in contributing to the Colorado economy annually has increased almost 18 percent, from $22.3 billion in 2008 to $26.3 billion in 2013.

Among the other findings in the study:

- DIA supports the equivalent of 188,338 full-time jobs and a payroll totaling $8.6 billion
- The airport accounts for 66 percent of the estimated $18.2 billion statewide economic impact from airport management, tenants and capital investment
- Colorado manufacturers rely on air-cargo services at DIA, which accounts for an annual economic impact of $5.4 billion
- DIA-supported activities contribute more than $1.1 billion in local, state and federal taxes
- 15 percent of Colorado's total employment is in some way supported by aviation
- DIA is critical for the state's tourism industry; most visitors who arrive in Colorado via commercial aircraft travel through Denver's airport
The complete 2013 Economic Impact Study for Colorado Airports is available online at: [CDOT Aeronautics Economic Impact Study](http://business.flydenver.com/info/news/publications/wingtips/2013OctoberLarge.html).

**Fly By Red Rocks on Display at Denver International Airport**

Red Rocks Amphitheatre, the unmatched U.S. outdoor venue for music and the site of concerts from the Allman Brothers to ZZ Top, has a new temporary exhibit at DIA.

*Fly by Red Rocks* is now on display in Ansbacher Hall, which is the area leading from Jeppesen Terminal to the A Gates security checkpoint on Level 6. Travelers are invited to view artifacts that performers gave as gifts to Red Rocks Amphitheatre after shows. Because of limited space, just a portion of Red Rocks’ vast history is represented in the exhibit, but what is displayed is unique and exciting for rock ‘n roll fans.
The Beatles played at Red Rocks in August 1964—about six months after their U.S. debut on the Ed Sullivan Show and during their first year touring the United States.

You can see photographs of the Beatles taken during their visit to Denver and Red Rocks in 1964. Also displayed is a leather vest from the Beatles concert. A Stevie Nicks autographed guitar is easily spotted, as are guitars from other famous bands. Among the exhibit collection is a skateboard autographed by Tony Hawk.

The group Fun is represented in the Fly by Red Rocks exhibit with an electric guitar signed by members of the group.

The Fly by Red Rocks exhibit gives travelers a peak “backstage” at perhaps our most beloved Colorado cultural facility, said Manager of Aviation Kim Day. “This exhibit’s memorabilia will help tourists and locals alike learn more about the history of this breathtaking concert venue.”

**About Red Rocks Amphitheatre**
The iconic and historic venue was founded in 1906 by John Brisben Walker Sr., who had a vision of artists performing on a stage nestled into the perfectly acoustic surroundings of Red Rocks. The inaugural show was performed in 1910 by an opera group called Ferrulo’s Band, who played on a temporary stage and said, “This was the best opera house in the nation.”
Denver architect Burnham Hoyt designed the modern amphitheatre, which seats close to 10,000 people and emphasizes the area’s natural beauty. The building plans were completed in 1936 for the City of Denver, and Red Rocks Amphitheatre was dedicated on June 15, 1941. The rest is sweet-sounding history. Holding true to its original claim, Red Rocks is still the No. 1 venue in the nation, with accolades in 2013 from *Rolling Stone* magazine as “The Best Amphitheatre in the Nation” and winning *Pollstar*’s Top Venue award so many times that the publication eventually renamed the coveted award the “Red Rocks Award.”
One of the electric guitars given to Red Rocks and part of the Fly by Red Rocks exhibit is from the group Yes.

More than 1 million people visit every year and the amphitheatre averages 100 shows per year.  [www.redrocksonline.com](http://www.redrocksonline.com)
Red Rocks Amphitheatre - west of Denver.