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News Release

Released: November 5, 2007
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Detroit Metro Airport to Move Smith Terminal Access Roadway

--Slight rerouting a significant milestone in North Terminal project

Visitors to Detroit Metro Airport's Smith Terminal will soon notice a slight shift in the roadways used to access both the arrivals and departures level of the terminal. The minor rerouting of both Lower and Upper Rogell Drive is an important milestone in the ongoing North Terminal construction.

Beginning this week, departures traffic (Upper Rogell Drive) will approach the Smith Terminal using a brand new roadway running directly in front of the new North Terminal. Arrivals traffic (Lower Rogell Drive) will be rerouted just a few hundred feet to the left on a new roadway running alongside the Blue Parking Deck. Both new routes are only minor adjustments to the current traffic pattern, and both new roadways will rejoin current roadways by the time traffic reaches the arrivals or departures curb.

"This minor rerouting will have very little impact on motorists approaching the Smith Terminal," said Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Lester Robinson. "But what makes this seemingly insignificant change in traffic patterns so important is that it marks the first time customers will begin to use any of the new infrastructure built as part of the North Terminal Redevelopment Project."

With this change, the former North Cell Phone lane along Lower Rogell Drive will no longer exist. Motorists picking-up an arriving passenger at Detroit Metro Airport's Smith Terminal are encouraged to utilize the new, expanded north cell phone waiting lot that opened in September. Detailed directions to the new lot are available at the airport's web site, www.metroairport.com.

The new, upper-level roadway will become the departures level roadway for the North Terminal when the new terminal becomes operational late next year. This upper roadway actually runs atop part of the building that will house the baggage claim.

“While the first flight in or out of the new North Terminal may still be nearly a year away, the Airport Authority is excited to welcome Detroit-area customers to this first component of our new facility,” Robinson said.

The relocated arrivals roadway (Lower Rogell Drive) is a temporary roadway that will make room for crews to begin construction of a permanent arrivals curb for the North Terminal as well as a new Ground Transportation Center.

When it opens in 2008, the new North Terminal will be Detroit’s home to Air Canada, American, AirTran, Frontier, Lufthansa, Royal Jordanian, Southwest, Spirit, United, US Airways, and USA 3000, as well as charter airlines. Northwest Airlines and its SkyTeam partners, Northwest Airlinck, Air France, Continental and Delta will remain in the McNamara Terminal.

The North Terminal Redevelopment Project is creating an estimated 3,200 new, local construction jobs. Upon completion of the new facility, the existing Smith and Berry terminals will be decommissioned—making DTW one of the newest, most operationally-capable and efficient airports in North America. Together with the McNamara Terminal, which opened in 2002, DTW will soon feature two new terminals, nearly 150 gates, six jet runways, and two modern Federal Inspection Services facilities for international arrivals.

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