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News Advisory

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Massive Concrete Placement Scheduled for Detroit Metro Airport

--450 concrete trucks to deliver 18 million pounds of concrete

Members of the media are welcome to witness an historic moment at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) on Saturday as hundreds of concrete trucks descend upon the north terminal construction site with 4,533 cubic yards of concrete.

“Until now, most of the activity at the north terminal site has focused on the demolition and deconstruction of buildings and old pavement,” said Lester Robinson, Wayne County Airport Authority CEO. “We have now begun to build; and this mat foundation is a significant step in the construction of a convenient and efficient new terminal for our customers.”

Beginning at 4:00 a.m. **Saturday, August 26**, a long line of concrete trucks will begin discharging their loads into 5 giant pumps which will transfer the concrete to the point of placement. (See attached photo.) More than 200 workers will be involved in this complex, nine-hour operation. North terminal project Construction Managers at Risk, Walbridge Barton-Malow, have arranged for five local concrete batch plants to continuously supply the concrete trucks rotating to the airport site at rates exceeding 500 cubic yards per hour.

The window of opportunity for the media is from **7:00 to 8:00 a.m.** (See attached sheet.)

2.4 million pounds of reinforcing steel has already been positioned in the forms at the site of the mat foundation to provide the best possible strength for this important element of the north terminal project. That’s 1,200 tons of steel placed and ready for the concrete.

This will be the largest single-event concrete placement at DTW since the construction of the foundation for the north tunnel on Dingell Drive, when 21,000 cubic yards of concrete were placed in one 21-hour period on May 15, 1999. That event is said to be the largest one day, single-event concrete placement in history, exceeding even concrete placements at the Hoover Dam.

“The mat foundation is typically 32 inches deep with thickened portions, that are carrying a heavier load, up to 48 inches deep. This amount of concrete would build a normal slab on grade of approximately 4.5 acres,” said Harold Petsch, AIA, Construction Coordinator for the north terminal project. “That can be compared to a normal 10x12-foot residential patio for over 3,000 homes!”

A massive, continuous concrete placement limits the number of joints necessary in the foundation which reduces the probability of differential settlement and maintains continuity of the entire placement. In other words, it assures a higher quality foundation for the north terminal.

The \$418 million, 26-gate north terminal will open in 2008 and will become the new home for all of the airlines currently flying out of the Smith and Berry Terminals including Air Canada, American, Air Tran, Frontier, Southwest, Spirit, United, USAirways/America West, and USA 3000 as well as non-scheduled airlines such as Champion Air, Ryan Air and others. International carriers British Airways, Lufthansa and Royal Jordanian will move from the McNamara Terminal. Hub carrier Northwest Airlines and its SkyTeam partners, Northwest AirlinK, Air France, Continental and Delta will remain in the McNamara Terminal which opened in February 2002.

Colorful renderings of the north terminal are available by visiting www.metroairport.com and clicking on north terminal on the left side of the home page. Then click images.

Attached, you will find a photo taken during another concrete placement at the same site two weeks ago. This will give you an idea of the kind of shots which will be available on Saturday.

Have questions? Need directions? Call Michael Conway, Director Public Affairs at (734) 942-3558.

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Cheat Sheet for the Assignment Desks

- WHO:** All members of the media are welcome, but the rare unobstructed view will be most appreciated by TV and still cameras.
- WHAT:** 450 concrete trucks will deliver more than 18 million pounds of concrete at a rate of 500 cubic yards per hour to be placed at the north terminal construction site in a single event.
- WHEN:** The window of opportunity for the media is **between 7:00 and 8:00 am Saturday morning, August 26, 2006.**
- WHERE:** Take the DEPARTURES lanes toward the Smith Terminal. Just before the road narrows from three to two lanes, pull over to the right. You will see orange barrels designating your lane and I will be standing there.
- HOW:** Between 7 and 8 am, a section of the construction fence will be rolled back for an unobstructed view for TV and still cameras.
- WHY:** A massive, continuous concrete placement limits the number of joints necessary in the foundation which reduces the probability of differential settlement and maintains continuity of the entire placement. In other words, it assures a higher quality foundation for the north terminal.

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