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1. 20-year Master Plan unveiled
2. Allegiant expands Las Vegas service to 7 days a week
3. Airport sets boarding record

Master Plan

Coffman Associates has just finished compiling a 20-year Master Plan for the Sioux Falls Regional Airport Authority. The Master Plan will help guide the Authority's planning and capital expenditures in the future. The process also identified future needs. The Master Planning process took a little over a year.

The improvement program is separated into short term, intermediate term and long term covering 0-5 years, 6-10 years and 11-20 years, respectively.

Included in the short term program are:

1. expansion of ticketing area of terminal to allow better placement and usage of the CT-80 explosive detector machines the Transportation Security Administration recently installed.
2. Replacement of the travelators that lead up to the concourse by escalators. Installing escalators will allow the queuing area at the security checkpoint to be extended—a much need improvement.
3. Construction of a cross-field taxiway between A3 and B2 to expedite aircraft movements; especially for the airliners.
4. Expansion of the general aviation ramp.
5. Construction of new snow removal equipment buildings in the northwest area of the airfield. Moving the airfield department will allow for expansion of the air cargo area.

The intermediate term program includes:

1. Extension of taxiways to the northwest area to open up another general aviation area for hangars.
2. Construction of additional air cargo facilities.
3. Expansion of the bag claim area to allow additional bag belts peak times.
4. It is recommended that the Air Traffic Control tower be replaced. The short height of the current tower impacts building development on the field. A new control tower would have to be funded by the FAA.

In the long term program are:

1. Expanded public parking at the terminal.
2. Expansion of the ticketing and bag claim areas.
3. Construction of a new departure concourse and apron.

All the above would be demand-driven.



There is a link to the full-sized jpg of the development program on the newsletter page.

A major part of compilation of the Master Plan was public involvement through public meetings and a planning advisory committee consisting of local airport users, governmental agency representatives and local citizens.

Las Vegas Service

On February 14, Allegiant Air officially expanded their Las Vegas service to 7 days a week. They had previously operated the service on their 161-seat MD83 jets on Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Friday only. The popularity of these nonstop flights to Las Vegas among local travelers has allowed them offer the service every day.

Flights depart at 11:40 AM. They return at 11:05 AM.

Allegiant Air began serving Sioux Falls in 2005. They also offer twice weekly service to Orlando from Sioux Falls.

Allegiant can be contacted at 702-505-8888 or online at www.allegiantair.com.

Annual Boarding Record Set

The year 2006 saw the Sioux Falls Regional Airport achieve a new all-time boarding record of 371,659. The previous record of 362,000 was set in 2000.

Since the previous record was set, the Airport has added service by Delta Connection to Cincinnati, Atlanta and Salt Lake City and by Allegiant Air to Las Vegas and Orlando.

United Express led local airlines with a 41.0% market share. Northwest and Northwest Airlinck were second with 40.7%, followed by Allegiant Air at 9.0%, Delta Connection at

7.9% and America West Express at 1.0%. (America West Express suspended service in March 2006).

In addition to the 737,177 passengers who passed through the terminal, there were 88,358 aircraft operations in 2006 (take-offs plus landings); 17,359,000 pounds of mail and 62,802,000 pounds of cargo handled.