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## **Huntsville International Airport Announces \$87 Million Expansion and Renovation Project**

June 8, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Huntsville, AL...Huntsville International Airport announced today an \$87 million expansion and renovation project. Construction will begin this fall on the first of a nine phase project, lasting five years, which will improve multiple aspects of the airport. This project will include customer service upgrades to the concourse, flight information display systems, public waiting areas, concessions, baggage claim area, passenger and baggage screening, curbside check-in, covered parking and the entrance access road.

“Customer service has long been a top priority for the board of directors and staff at Huntsville International Airport. We want our customers to have a pleasant traveling experience each time they use our services. I am confident that this meets our customer service goals and does so in a way which dramatically improves upon an already first-class facility serving this community,” stated Rick Tucker, Executive Director, Port of Huntsville.

The concourse renovations will include two additional jet bridges with baggage lifts and air conditioning. The concourse will also get a cosmetic facelift with new carpeting, wall covering and ceiling tiles throughout. The flight information display system (FIDS) will be upgraded throughout the airport using the latest technology and will also be installed in the 10-minute waiting area in front of the terminal building for ease of passenger pick up. Food concessions will be expanded to give our passengers more food and beverage options.

Much larger public waiting areas will be provided at checkpoint security and the entire front of the ticketing lobby will be modified to allow for a much larger number of meeters and greeters. The waiting area at checkpoint, as well as the ticket lobby, will feature two story vaulted ceilings; incorporating panoramic windows to bring in natural light and allow our customers a view of aircraft operations and the entire terminal front curbside. Our customers will be able to stay indoors, protected from the elements, while

watching for their ride. This architectural design feature will open up and brighten the waiting areas while giving unimpeded views of our operations.

Additional customer service improvements include modifying curbside check-in in order to expand the waiting area and provide better protection during inclement weather. The baggage claim area will be increased to accommodate an additional baggage carousel and will utilize new models of baggage carousels.

The passenger screening checkpoint area will be expanded to accommodate a third and fourth screening lane to help alleviate congestion during peak travel times. Checked baggage screening will be relocated from the ticket lobby to better accommodate the flow of traffic throughout.

As part of this expansion project, a new parking deck will be constructed for additional covered parking for passengers.

Bill Johnston, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Directors, stated, "These improvements will carry us into the next 10 years of development of the airport. Careful planning was used throughout this process to encompass not only normal growth over a ten year period, but also to prepare us for the airport's future needs."

Upon completion, this expansion and renovation project will increase the airports passenger capacity as well as provide the aforementioned customer service upgrades. As Huntsville and the surrounding areas continue to grow, the Port of Huntsville will continue to anticipate and meet the changing needs of our customers in the immediate as well as the distant future.

Huntsville International Airport underwent an eighteen month planning process to develop a scope and plan for this expansion project. This process included taking inventory of existing facilities, forecasting growth, analyzing future facility requirements, creating multiple design concepts, and an implementation and budget plan for the final product. The consultants for this project were The LPA Group of Columbia, SC and Chapman Sisson Architects of Huntsville, AL.

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