



News Release

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First Six Gates of New Terminal B Concourse Open at San Jose Airport Next Week

Interim activation of new facilities to begin with Southwest Airlines

San José, CA – The first six gates of the new Terminal B Concourse at Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) will open on an interim basis next Wednesday, July 15, marking a major milestone for the creation of a modern, efficient, and attractive international gateway for Silicon Valley.

[Southwest Airlines](#) will use six of the twelve new gates in Terminal B until the new facility is entirely completed next summer when other SJC carriers will be added. The interim activation of the concourse is another step in the complex construction phasing for the airport's comprehensive \$1.3 billion modernization program.

Southwest passengers will continue to check in at Terminal A and claim their baggage at the carousels in the Terminal A garage for the next twelve months until all Southwest operations shift to Terminal B, currently scheduled for June 2010. At that time, ticketing, security check-in, and baggage systems for the new gates will shift permanently to Terminal B.

Over the coming year there will be ongoing construction in the new concourse as the airport completes concessions and ground floor office space, modifies the building and its furnishings, and integrates it with Terminal B. Sections of the concourse will be closed off from time to time to allow construction crews to do their work during this period.

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With the new gates, the airport will also open the first of its restaurants and shops in the new building with the launch of “The Sharks Cage” by [HMS Host](#), one of the airport’s three master concessionaires. Sunnyvale’s C.J. Olson’s Cherries, Sunglass Icon, and Sunset News round out the HMS Host-operated concessions in the new concourse.

The airport’s other concessionaires, [Areas USA](#) and [Hudson Group](#), also are scheduled to open stores over the next several weeks in both the new concourse and in Terminal A.

“Our airline partners and our passengers can begin to enjoy the benefits of this beautiful new building now, even though the completion of the overall project is still a year off,” said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed. “As the most convenient, comfortable, and competitive airport in the state, this will be an essential asset for the future strength of Silicon Valley’s economy.”

Construction of the 380,000-square-foot, \$342 million Terminal B Concourse began in 2004 as the first major component of the airport’s overall terminal area improvement program. [Gensler](#) was the lead architect, supported by [Steinberg Architects](#) from San Jose, and [Gilbane Building Company](#) was the construction manager.

“This new terminal is the culmination of many years of hard work, and we are thrilled to be the first carrier to operate out of it,” said Greg Gillis, corporate property manager for Southwest Airlines. “We appreciate the partnership we have with San José and their dedication to keeping costs low while completing a quality project.”

Terminal B, designed by [Fentress Architects](#), is currently under construction by [Hensel Phelps Construction Co.](#), the airport’s design/build contractor. Together the new terminal and concourse will have twelve commercial aircraft gates with comfortable waiting lounges, passenger amenities such as free Wi-Fi and ample power outlets for laptops, and new shops and restaurants that will enhance passenger experience.

In addition, Terminal B will have an automated state-of-the-art baggage sorting system and an explosive detection system from the [Transportation Security Administration](#) that will become the model for airports across the nation.

Both buildings have been designed and built to achieve environmental goals, and the airport expects to receive LEED sustainability certification from the [U.S. Green Building Council](#) after completion.

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“We continue to make excellent progress to stay on schedule and keep within our budget to deliver the most modern airport in the country for the benefit of Silicon Valley travelers and businesses,” said Bill Sherry, San José Director of Aviation. “This is the direct result of a remarkable partnership among our airlines, our design and construction teams, and airport and city staff who have been dedicated to achieving this goal.”

About the SJC Terminal Area Improvement Program

Phase 1 of SJC’s \$1.3 billion [terminal area improvement program](#) involves the modernization and replacement of the airport’s terminal facilities. The construction of a new Terminal B and Terminal B Concourse that will take the place of Terminal C, originally built in 1965. The program includes upgrades and expansion at Terminal A to provide more spacious and comfortable waiting areas and faster security check-in systems.

The program also includes a new 3350-space rental car and public parking garage directly in front of Terminal B; expanded space for more options for quality food, beverage, and retail services; an extensive public art program; and improved roadways serving the airport for more convenient access.

The modernization program is scheduled for completion by the end of 2010. Plans for future airport expansion in Phase 2, which would extend Terminal B and add new gates, will be contingent on reaching growth triggers for the number of flights or passengers pre-established in collaboration with the airlines serving San José.

About Mineta San José International Airport

Mineta San José International Airport is a self-supporting enterprise owned and operated by the City of San José. SJC served 9.7 million passengers and handled approximately 162 million pounds of air cargo in 2008. SJC currently has approximately 145 daily flights on 13 domestic and international carriers to 27 nonstop destinations.

The airport is located in San José, the Capital of Silicon Valley, California’s third largest city and the nation’s tenth largest city (population 1,007,000). For more Airport information, visit www.flysanjose.com. Motorists can also tune their radios to 530 AM within two miles of SJC for current information on airport traffic, parking and security.

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