



For Immediate Release
June 16, 2016

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Hartsfield-Jackson Begins Work on Capital Improvement Plan

ATLNext starts with retirement of Olympic mural

ATLANTA – Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) officials began work this week on ATLNext, the Airport's \$6 billion capital improvement plan. Under the plan, a 20-year blueprint for growth, ATL will modernize its terminal, expand its cargo operations and concourses, replace its parking facilities, and pave the way for a hotel and mixed-use development project.

One of the first projects in the plan is a six-week effort that will modernize the West Crossover, the escalator corridor linking the Airport's Plane Train with the baggage claim areas.

As part of this project, early Thursday morning the Airport retired the "Spirit of Atlanta," the 70-foot-wide mural of children playing at Centennial Olympic Park. A video screen providing important information to all passengers making their way up the escalator will replace the mural, which will be preserved in digital form. Various representations of the image will be included in the video display, which will make certain the smiling children in the iconic exhibit will continue to welcome visitors to ATL.

"The ATLNext modernization project will prepare our Airport for the future," interim Airport General Manager Roosevelt Council Jr. said today. "We'll honor our past by ensuring the Spirit of Atlanta remains, in some form, to welcome our guests for years to come."

The construction will require rerouting passengers, sometimes intermittently, from midnight to 5:30 a.m. Sunday through Thursday each week for six weeks. Guests traveling during these early-morning hours will exit the Plane Train at Concourse T and make their way to baggage claim along a revised route.

Temporary wayfinding signage, along with guest service representatives, will be stationed at key locations to direct travelers. Airport personnel also will reverse two escalators to accommodate passengers during this time period.

To ensure guests exit at the T Concourse, the Plane Train's intercom system will air frequent reminders. For passengers who forget to exit at the T Concourse and ride the train to baggage claim, construction crews will be on hand to redirect guests back to the T Concourse.

The construction project initially involves building and positioning scaffolding. Airport officials say additional early-morning closures may be required once the scaffolding is in place.

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Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Hartsfield-Jackson (ATL) is the world's most traveled and most efficient airport, serving more than 101 million passengers annually with nonstop service to more than 150 U.S. destinations and nearly 70 international destinations in more than 45 countries. ATL boasts a direct economic impact of \$34.8 billion in metro Atlanta and a total direct economic impact of \$70.9 billion in Georgia. The Airport is the largest employer in Georgia, with more than 63,000 employees. The Airport is a frequent recipient of awards of excellence for concessions, operations, sustainability, architectural engineering, and construction. ATL is about to embark on a \$6 billion capital improvement plan, ATL Next, that will modernize the domestic terminal and concourses, create new parking decks, construct a 300-room hotel, Class A commercial office space, add a new runway, new concourse and expand cargo facilities. For more information, go to www.atlanta-airport.com.

NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS

For HD broadcast quality b-roll of airport operations, events and generic interior/exterior shots, click here to view our ATL Video Newsroom: <https://vimeo.com/atlairport/channels>