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Busy Summer Travel Season Made Easier with New Technology

Hartsfield-Jackson is first airport to launch mobile passport app

ATLANTA – Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport officials today unveiled a new mobile app designed to streamline the inspection process and expedite entry into the United States for international travelers.

“We are extremely proud to be the first airport to offer this new mobile app to our customers,” said Hartsfield-Jackson General Manager Miguel Southwell. “At the world’s busiest and most efficient airport, we strive to lead all facets of the air transportation industry. Thanks to our partnership with the airlines, federal partners and Airports Council International, this innovative technology will provide a more efficient travel experience for international travelers arriving in Atlanta.”

Eligible travelers with a smart phone or tablet can download the Mobile Passport Control (MPC) app and create a secure profile designed to quicken travel through customs lines in Atlanta. The free app can be easily downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. Travelers arriving at Hartsfield-Jackson can download over the airport’s free Wi-Fi system.

“Customs and Border Protection is committed to improving the traveler experience by offering new and innovative ways to expedite entry into the United States while ensuring the highest level of security,” said Port Director Stephan Kremer. “The Mobile Passport Control app is a valuable tool for those arriving in Atlanta as we continue to reduce wait times using programs like MPC and Automated Passport Control for the continually growing volume of travelers to the United States.”

The first-of-its-kind app was developed by Airside Mobile and Airports Council International - North America in partnership with U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“There is a clear role for innovative technology like Mobile Passport in creating a more efficient travel experience while maintaining security at our nation’s airports,” said Kevin Burke, president and CEO, Airports Council International - North America. “Through our successful partnership with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Airside Mobile, and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport as the first airport to implement Mobile Passport, we are seeing more and more travelers utilize the app to get through the customs line more quickly.”

Following Hartsfield-Jackson’s lead, four other airports are now implementing the Mobile Passport Control, and more, according to Burke, are expected to follow. “We look forward to helping more airports adopt Mobile Passport as a way to enhance the customer experience and increase throughput as quickly as possible,” he said.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection initially launched the pilot Mobile Passport Control (MPC) program in Atlanta in August 2014. Currently, MPC is also available in Chicago, Miami and Seattle. San Francisco will launch its program this summer. For more information on MPC, visit: www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/mobile-passport-control.

During the press conference, airport officials also reminded customers of helpful hints to keep in mind during the busy summer travel season. Passengers should budget 90 minutes before domestic flights and two hours before international flights.

Travelers are encouraged to take advantage of Hartsfield-Jackson's new online parking reservation system, which allows travelers to reserve a space in selected parking lots before arriving. Travelers can book spaces by logging onto the airport website's new reservation page, www.atlanta-airport.com/Passenger/Parking/PRCSPassthrough.aspx.

Travelers can keep track of security wait times by going to the airport website at www.atlanta-airport.com Or, they can sign up for ATL's free Trak-a-Line service, which provides email notifications about the real-time status of the security lines. Register here: www.atlanta-airport.com/Passenger/Waittimes/register.aspx.

NOTES TO EDITORS: For b-roll of today's press conference, please click here vimeo.com/130488063.

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Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Hartsfield-Jackson (ATL) is the world's busiest and most efficient airport, serving more than 96.1 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, architectural engineering and construction – including the 2013 Global Efficiency Excellence Award from the Air Transport Research Society, 2013 Project of the Year, Architectural Category for the Maynard H. Jackson Jr. International Terminal from the American Association of Airport Executives Southeast chapter and the 2012 Best Airport in North America, Business Travel Award from the Business Traveler Magazine. ATL has completed more than \$6 billion worth of capital improvements, including a new, energy-efficient rental car center, a gold LEED-certified international terminal and aesthetic and functional upgrades to its concourses, people movers and parking services. For more information, go to www.atlanta-airport.com. Check out the Airport's YouTube channel by visiting www.youtube.com/AtlantaHartsfield, follow us on Twitter (@Atlanta_Airport) and become a fan on Facebook (Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport).

NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS

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