

# REDUCING AIRPORT DELAYS

## RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BAY RUNWAY AT JOHN F. KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



**The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is committed to creating new ways to reduce departure and arrival delays at all of its regional airports. One major way to address delays is to invest in infrastructure improvements that will enable our airports to handle more planes more efficiently.**

**At John F. Kennedy International Airport – which serves 48 million passengers annually – we are tackling delays with the reconstruction of our Bay Runway. Once completed, this project will reduce delays overall by an estimated 10,500 hours per year.**

### **ABOUT THE BAY RUNWAY**

The Bay Runway, also known as Runway 13R-31L, measures 14,572 feet long and handles about one-third of JFK International's annual operations, including more than half of all departures. In 2008, the airport handled about 440,000 flights and 48 million passengers.

### **RECONSTRUCTION INCLUDES RUNWAY EXPANSION**

A central component of the Bay Runway reconstruction is the widening of the runway from 150 to 200 feet to make way for new delay-reduction taxiways. These taxiways will include high-speed exits for landing aircraft and holding pads, where departing aircraft can pull off to enable planes to bypass those held on

the tarmac. In addition, a new drainage system and new electrical infrastructure will be installed. The Port Authority will also forego old-model asphalt and instead use an 18-inch concrete overlay. The lifespan of concrete is nearly five times longer than asphalt and will provide an estimated long-term savings of \$500 million. Concrete will reduce the frequency and duration of future maintenance closures, which in turn will reduced operational delays. The Bay Runway reconstruction began in July 2009; the project is expected to be completed at the end of 2011.



**THE PORT AUTHORITY** OF NY & NJ

*John F. Kennedy International*





**Left:** Construction of Taxiway KC. A major portion of the reconstruction project will be done without interruption to service.

**Right:** To improve efficiency and to handle the magnitude of the Bay Runway reconstruction, a concrete plant was constructed on site.

### **HOW WILL RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BAY RUNWAY IMPACT TRAVEL?**

This project will not impact travel, except when the runway itself is closed for construction for 120 days in 2010. Through extensive cooperation and coordination with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the airlines, the Port Authority expects to minimize the impact on airport operations when the runway is closed. Airlines are adjusting schedules and operations to mitigate delays, and the airport's three remaining runways will be utilized to their full capabilities during the Bay Runway's closure.

### **PROJECT FUNDING**

The Bay Runway reconstruction project is funded through three sources: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is providing \$73.0 million for the Delay Reduction Program initiatives included in the construction project, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is providing \$15.0 million, and the remaining amount in excess of \$200 million is being funded by the Port Authority.

### **BAY RUNWAY EMBRACES THE FUTURE**

Reconstruction of the Bay Runway will enable JFK International to remain a premier gateway to the greatest financial, cultural, and educational region in the world. Moving aircraft into and out of the airport more efficiently and safely will allow us to meet increased air passenger traffic at JFK that is expected to jump 20 percent over the next decade.

### **THE PORT AUTHORITY'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO REDUCING AIRPORT DELAYS**

In 2008, the Port Authority invested \$150 million in technical and customer-service initiatives that were identified by the Flight Delay Task Force, a group of industry and business leaders convened by the agency to study airport delays. In 2009, the Board of Commissioners approved \$15 million to continue this effort.

The Flight Delay Task Force is also spearheading implementation of the FAA's Next Generation Air Transportation System. "NextGen" works like a GPS system, utilizing satellite communication

technology to assist air traffic controllers and pilots in moving aircraft into and out of Port Authority airports more expeditiously. "Next Gen" is already being used successfully all over the world and in parts of the United States.

In addition to addressing airport delays, the Bay Runway reconstruction project is also an economic stimulator. The project is expected to support 1,000 direct and as many as 2,500 ancillary jobs, including direct construction work, asphalt and concrete production, procurement and installation of aeronautical lighting, and food services.

For more information about JFK Airport and any of our programs, please call the Port Authority's Office of Government and Community Relations at 212-435-3730 or visit the JFK Airport section of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's Web site at [panynj.info](http://panynj.info).