

RST Airside Times



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Spring 2010

Airport Manager's Update

After a lengthy delay at the gate while waiting to depart, the Captain finally came on the PA system and announced, "I'm sorry for the delay, but the machine that smashes your baggage and pulls the handles off is broken, so the ground crew is having to do it by hand!"

I would first like to say thank you for your support and continued use of Rochester International Airport during the last year. 2009 was a tough year economically; something most of us felt at one point or another due to the recession. From an airport perspective, issues such as declining passenger numbers, decreases in airline capacity, the loss of DHL air cargo operations, and news that Allegiant Air would be eliminating their Rochester market in February of 2010, 2009 was one of the more challenging years that Rochester International Airport has faced in quite some time.



With that being said, the airport continues to move forward into the future. Although we are always striving for air service improvements, this year I am particularly committed to securing additional air service options for our travelers. This will include the presentation of regional information and statistics to support additional air service and hubs from our current air carriers, as well as additional air service and hubs from other air carriers not currently serving Rochester. We will continue dialogue with Allegiant Air on resuming operations from Rochester to other Allegiant destinations, such as Florida or Arizona. I believe Rochester International Airport is an excellent option for air carriers to provide service from and I will continue to get that message out to new and current carriers.

How important is Rochester International Airport to Rochester and Southeastern Minnesota? The airport recently completed a comprehensive airport master planning process, part of which determined that Rochester International Airport had an annual economic impact of over \$161.5 million dollars to the local community. This direct economic impact demonstrates the value of Rochester International Airport to not only Rochester, but to Southeastern Minnesota, Northern Iowa, and Western Wisconsin.

I realize that airfares determine your choice of airport. I encourage you to consistently check airfares because many times fares from Rochester are less than fares out of Minneapolis / St. Paul, not to mention the convenience of flying from Rochester.

Although all of us felt the sting of the recession and continue to work our way out of tough economic times, I am committed to moving the airport forward, and to ensuring the citizens of Rochester and surrounding southeastern Minnesota communities continue to have a first class airport, with air service and amenities that are expected of a first class facility.

Sincerely,

Steven W Leque

Steven W. Leque
Airport Manager

Visit us on the web

www.FLYRST.com

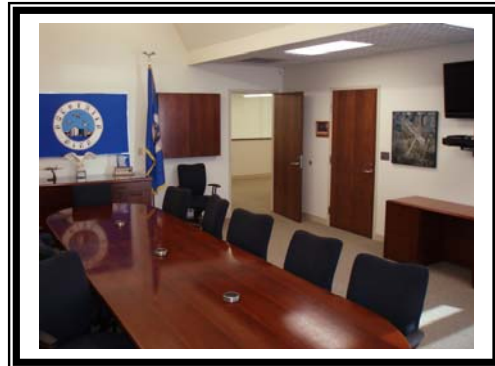
Airport Projects Update...

TERMINAL RENOVATIONS

Visitors to the airport administration offices, located on the 2nd floor of the main passenger terminal, will be greeted by new carpeting and fresh paint. The airport recently completed a "rejuvenation" project to the 2nd level of the terminal, which includes the administration offices, TSA office, training and break rooms, and restrooms. This project included new paint and carpet, new doorways, and new signage.

This project is just the beginning of major terminal renovations that are expected to begin within the next couple of months. Significant terminal renovations, as discussed in the last newsletter, will improve the airline ticket counters, baggage claim areas and carousels, as well as new seating and signage in the main terminal lobby.

Be on the lookout for these new and exciting changes.



FIRE DEPARTMENT REMODEL

The airport fire department dayroom, training, exercise and bunk rooms have started their transformation process from 1974 décor and design (uninviting) to a more modern and elegant look. These areas will be completed by April 1, 2010, at which time the project will move to the final phase. The final phase includes remodeling of the fire truck apparatus bay and the airport Fire Chief's office, as well as addressing water flow and piping issues.

The project was designed by HGA Architects and Schoepner Incorporated, a Rochester based company, is the general contractor for the project.

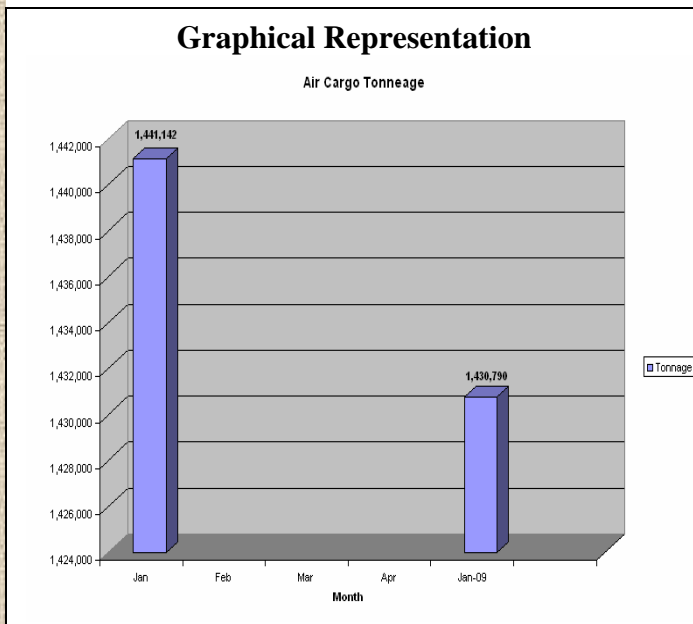
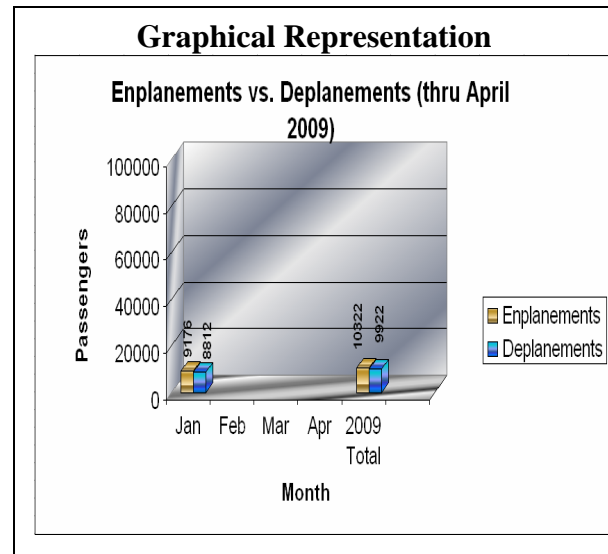
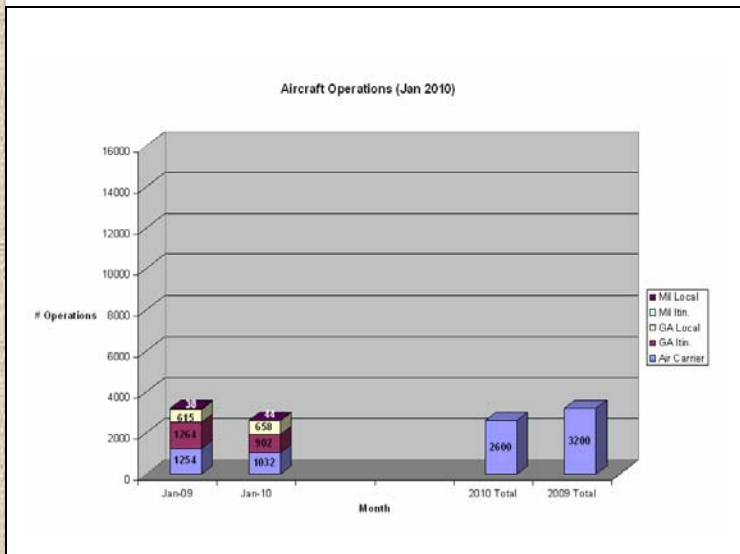
Completion is scheduled for June of this year.

Air Service Update

RST Passenger Statistics		
Month	Enplanements	Deplanements
Jan	9,176	8,812
Feb		
Mar		
Apr		
May		
June		
July		
Aug		
Sep		
Oct		
Nov		
Dec		
2010 Totals	9,176	8,812
2009 Totals	10,322	9,922



Lobb Field (original airport, SE Rochester)



Airport Security Issues..

During the week of February 1 the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) conducted an annual airport security compliance inspection at Rochester International Airport. The annual inspection focused on airport compliance with training, record-keeping, and enforcement requirements under 49 CFR 1520 and 1542.

The inspection also included Transportation Security Inspectors (TSI) performing identification compliance checks in the secured and aircraft operations areas (AOA). During these identification compliance inspections several violations were noted. During inspections of the secured area, located directly behind the main passenger terminal, a 50% compliance failure rate was observed. 4 out of 8 individuals challenged failed to properly display airport approved identification.

During inspections of the AOA (general aviation facilities) several violations of Transportation Security Regulations were observed. The most severe violation involved an individual "loaning" his identification and access media to an unauthorized individual. The individual in possession of someone else's identification and access media was challenged by inspectors. In another situation the inspectors observed an individual drive through a vehicle access gate and fail to stop and wait for the gate to secure before proceeding. These violations are an explicit violation of Federal and airport requirements, subject to civil penalties up to \$10,000, imposed by the TSA. Airport penalties may also be levied on individuals, which may include suspension or revocation of airfield access privileges.

Please remember to exercise good security practices and comply with all Federal and airport regulations while on the airport. Ensure you have your identification in your possession, and if operating in secured portions of the airport to have your identification properly displayed.

If you have any questions related to airport security requirements and how this affects you please contact Brian Thompson or Kurt Claussen, Airport Security Coordinators, at (507) 282-2328.



Airport Happenings...

Allegiant Airlines officially ceased Rochester to Las Vegas operations on February 15. Allegiant Airlines stated that "lack of market demand" influenced the decision to terminate scheduled service for Rochester.



Allegiant Air began service from Rochester International Airport to Las Vegas on June 14, 2007.



New Restaurant Operator

The Rochester International Airport restaurant is now under new management. The owner/operators of the 331 Bar and Grill, located on Airport View Drive SW, recently took over as the new restaurant operator.

The 331 will be temporarily providing service in the existing restaurant. In the next month or so they will be serving from the Gate #3 section of the terminal while the restaurant is being remodeled.

Please stop in and visit Jimmy and his staff. Their hours are 6 am until the last flight arrival in the evening.

American Eagle celebrates 5 years at RST

March 1, 2010 will be the 5 year anniversary of American Eagle airlines operations at RST. RST would like to thank American Eagle and congratulate the seven original American Eagle staff members for the dedication to customer service and exceptional air service they have provided over the last 5 years:

Robin Evenson
Ramona Hadland
Tom Gardner
Vicky Fabre

Mary Snyder
Thomas Hanson
Aaron Starling



<http://www.flyrst.com>