



OFFICE of the MAYOR
JACKIE BISKUPSKI

NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Contact:

Holly Mullen (Salt Lake City Mayor's Office)

385-881-3393 | holly.mullen@slcgov.com

Or

Nancy Volmer (Salt Lake City Department of Airports)

801-209-5774 | nancy.volmer@slcgov.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Salt Lake City announces plan to phase out smoking rooms at Salt Lake City International Airport

Mayor Jackie Biskupski and the Salt Lake City International Airport today announced a plan to phase out the five smoking rooms currently in use in five concourses at the airport.

The six-month plan will begin on July 5 with the closure of the smoking room in Concourse D, and the final smoking room permanently closing on December 19. The current designs of the \$1.8 billion Terminal Redevelopment Program do not include space for smoking rooms. The first phase of the Terminal Redevelopment Program is scheduled for completion in 2020.

"This is first and foremost an issue of public health, both for travelers and our airport employees, but it is also an issue of space concerns," said Mayor Biskupski, on the closure plan. "The

current airport terminal is also beyond capacity, and every foot of available space should be used to the best advantage of the traveling public.”

Public health advocates estimate health care costs in Utah this year due to smoking will reach \$542 million, with an additional \$355 million in smoking-related lost productivity.

Closing the smoking rooms will also free up more than 1,200 square feet in the concourses for other purposes—possible retail space, charging stations for electronics, and extra passenger seating.

The city supported a 2016 bill at the Utah Legislature sponsored by state Senator Evan Vickers to require the airport close the rooms in compliance with the Utah Indoor Clean Air Act. “Having been involved in this issue since last summer, I see this as a step forward for our airport and our state,” Senator Vickers said. “I would have liked the Legislature to support this, but the timing is right and this is a positive and appropriate health move for our traveling public.”

“We have thoroughly studied the issue of closing the smoking rooms,” said Airport Executive Director Maureen Riley. “While we expect a mild change in routine for some using the airport, we anticipate no major impact in passenger movement or convenience in taking this step.”

By keeping its airport smoking rooms open, Salt Lake City has remained an outlier in the United States. Currently, 27 of the 35 busiest U.S. airports are smoke-free. More than 600 of the nation’s airports are smoke-free.

Those wishing to smoke at the airport will still be able to do so outside the terminals, 25 feet from entrances, in accordance with the Utah Indoor Clean Air Act.

In conjunction with closing the rooms, Salt Lake City International Airport will begin an outreach campaign to notify the public, as well as a no-cost smoking cessation program for airport employees.

The closure schedule is as follows:

- Concourse D (470 square feet): July 5
- Concourse A (308 square feet): Week of August 15
- Concourse B (396 square feet): Week of September 26
- Concourse E (357 square feet): Week of November 7

- Concourse C (598 square feet): Week of December 19

#####