



Salt Lake City
International Airport

Bill Wyatt
Executive Director
Salt Lake City Dept. of Airports

For Immediate Release
November 19, 2019

Contact: Nancy Volmer
801-209-5774

**SLC International Adds New Service to Assist Blind and Low-Vision Passengers
Navigate the Airport**

Salt Lake City, UT— Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC) has added a new service known as Aira—Artificial Intelligence Remote Assistant—to assist blind and low-vision passengers better navigate the airport.

Aira connects low-vision passengers to real, highly-trained people instantly who interpret their surroundings through their cell phone’s camera or special glasses that have an embedded video camera paired with a smartphone. A passenger accesses Aira through a free phone app that is downloaded on their mobile device. The phone app or special glasses allows an Aira agent to see the blind person’s surroundings in real-time.

SLC implemented the program in February 2019 and has been working with Aira to fine tune the system. This required the airport buy a block of minutes for approx. \$8,000 and define a geo-fenced area to allow users to access the system while at the airport. The geo-fence currently surrounds the airport’s three terminal buildings and will be updated when The New SLC Airport opens in September 2020. Since the program was implemented, usage has averaged about 112 minutes per month.

“We recognize that navigating an airport can be a challenge and are continually working to insure our facilities are accessible to all,” said Bill Wyatt, executive director, Salt Lake City Department of Airports. “Aira provides a valuable amenity for low-vision passengers to help them navigate the airport with ease.”

#

Aira Tech Corp is a technology company dedicated to making lives simpler, easier and more fun. Based in San Diego, California, Aira uses the latest technologies to connect people who are blind or have low vision with real, highly-trained professionals who provide visual information on demand.

SLC is the 23rd busiest airport in North America and the 85th busiest in the world. More than 380 flights depart daily to 99 nonstop destinations. SLC is currently undergoing a \$4 billion redevelopment program, the first phase of which will open in September 15, 2020.