



Taking a Turn for the Better

A significant detour to two roadways exiting the Salt Lake City International Airport took place in late August and early September.

The road exiting the Airport's parking garage was re-routed on Aug. 24 and Terminal Drive exiting the Airport was re-routed Sept. 7. The roadways now turn south and loop around a section of the Airport rebuild project before reconnecting with the established roadway. The detours take drivers by the first major milestone of the Airport rebuild: the building that houses the rental car service facilities, which opened in January 2016.



The dotted lines indicated the previous roadway and the solid lines show the current roadways.

The road changes were necessary to open up land needed to construct the new Airport terminal and parking garage and will be in place until 2020 when the new elevated roadway is completed.

"This is an exciting time for the Airport rebuild project," said Maureen Riley, executive director, Salt Lake City Dept. of Airports. "We appreciate everyone's patience as the construction becomes more visible and the roadways shift."

The detour will take an additional one-third of a mile to exit the Airport, so passengers may want to allow extra time to drop-off and pick-up passengers. A reminder that parking and waiting is not allowed at the Airport curbs in order to ensure a smooth traffic flow. UTA's Airport Trax line is an alternative to avoid the road detours.

Work Continues Underground

Progress continues on The New SLC with construction activity taking place throughout the airport campus.

Underground stone column installation is well underway on the west side of the airport, creating stable soil for the new facilities. Four cranes are working simultaneously to install an estimated 19,000 stone columns within the footprint of the new terminal and South Concourse-West. This work is critical to ensure that the new facilities meet current earthquake standards.



Cranes install stone columns to stabilize the ground and to meet seismic code.

Concourse E Demolition

Another major milestone of the redevelopment program was reached with the demolition of the south wing of Concourse E. The cleared space allows for soil stabilization and utility work to continue on South Concourse-West. After much preparation, it took crews two days to take down this portion of the structure.



Construction crew members oversee demolition of Concourse E-south wing

This south wing of Concourse E has been inactive for over a year after SkyWest Airlines retired its fleet of Embraer EMB-120 Brasilia airliners. The iconic, silver turboprop planes carried up to 30 passengers and flew mostly to smaller, regional markets.

Trends in the aviation industry are ushering in a new phase in air travel, as airlines are reducing their inventory of smaller planes for larger aircraft. Fortunately, this is a change SLC expected and is planning for as part of The New SLC.

SLC's new terminal, including the recently announced North Concourse, will offer 77 gates when the entire project is completed in 2023/24. All gates will have jet bridges, to accommodate regional jets and larger aircraft, including three gates that can handle wide body aircraft at the same time. (Compare this to SLC's 71 gates, with 56 jet bridges.) Additionally, the concourses' linear alignment will facilitate movement of these larger planes by preventing bottlenecks on the airfield to encourage Salt Lake City's on-time performance record.



The above picture shows a rendering of how The New SLC will look in 2020, including the parking garage, elevated roadway, gateway, terminal and west end of the South Concourse. The west end of the North Concourse is not depicted in this rendering.

Stay Engaged

Follow the Salt Lake City International Airport on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube for more updates about the Terminal Redevelopment Program! Share your excitement about the new terminal with #TheNewSLC hashtag or tag us in your travel photos.



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