

flykci

.com

July - August 2009



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Improving Airline Climate Brings Opportunities for KC Travelers

Things are looking up for Midwest air travelers using Kansas City International Airport (KCI). After a period of reductions in seat capacity at airports across the U.S., airlines serving KCI are adding flights and destination cities at a faster clip than at other airports in the region. In fact, KCI is the only airport in the region where seat capacity is up year over year. United Airlines will inaugurate once daily nonstop service to San Francisco on October 2, providing convenient connections to Hawaii and Asia. Southwest Airlines will offer three daily nonstop flights to Milwaukee starting on November 1. Other carriers continue to add flights or increase aircraft size.

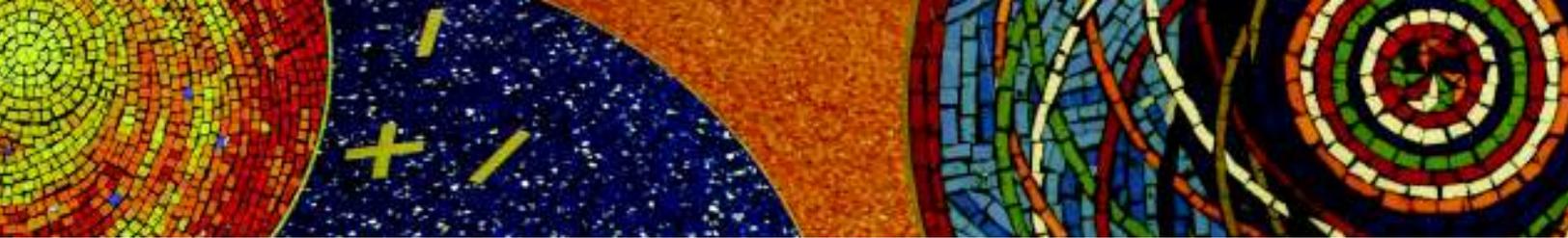
Travelers can currently reach 47 destinations nonstop from KCI, decreasing total travel times and chances of missed connections.



Air fares are also more affordable in Kansas City. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Origin and Destination Survey for the year ending March 2009, the average one way domestic fare from KCI was \$157, compared to \$164 from Omaha,

\$167 from St. Louis, \$204 from Wichita and \$215 from Des Moines. Most of the time, KCI is cheaper than these other airports to the top 100 U.S. markets. Passenger counts at KCI are also now improving. There was a major uptick from June to July 2009 and the Aviation Department hopes to see year-over-year positive growth later in 2009.

Additionally, the Aviation Department is closely watching airline mergers to determine the best future locations of the combined carriers to maximize the customer experience. Considerations include parking capacity, ticket counters and concessions.



New Parking Commercial Launched



nal to catch their flight. In the process, a unicycle, a gag camera, juggling clubs and other shenanigans are featured. One robust female clown, really a male, ends it all by hitting the camera with a pie. The script reads, "Serious travelers save more with Economy Parking. Not so serious ones do, too. KCI Economy Parking. Only \$5.50 a day."

The commercial has been loaded onto YouTube® (search "KCI Clown Ad") and is linked from the Kansas City International Airport Facebook® page. The CNN Airport Network is broadcast on television monitors in each of the departure lounges at Kansas City International Airport, and it offers national and international news, weather, sports updates, business and financial segments, travel and lifestyle-oriented segments. The Aviation Department is able to run airport commercials free of charge on the system at KCI. The spot is posted on YouTube, and can be viewed through the home page at www.flykci.com.

KCI Airport Shops Continue Local Touch

Most of the retail shops inside Kansas City International Airport terminals are filled with souvenirs of regional relevance. Jazz, barbeque and fountains have been just a few of the Kansas City themes used throughout the years on retail items for travelers. Recently, however, the KC Marketplace and the CNBC stores have added a new line of gourmet chocolates by area favorite, Candy House. The confectionaire is based in Joplin, Missouri and offers a large online selection of chocolates. KCI's shops will carry a more limited line that includes malt balls, assorted chocolates, sugar-free sweets, German chocolate "haystacks", English toffee, peanut butter melt-aways and white chocolate pretzels. Additionally, some of the candy will feature local tongue-in-cheek titles such as Kansas City Cow Pies (milk chocolate and coconut), KC Krunch (caramel popcorn), Missouri Walking Sticks and Missouri Mud Munch. The retail stores are operated by The Paradies Shops, a national company which strives to stock innovative and locally made products at each of its airport locations. The new gourmet candy will be offered year-round and Candy House's Web site is www.candyhouse.net.



Downtown Airport Buildings Get Facelifts

Along with the numerous improvements being made at the Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport will be a bit of cosmetic upgrades. Many of the equipment storage buildings that were painted years ago the infamous shade of "KCI Umber", or a very dark brown, are finally being repainted in contemporary shades of almond and tan. Additionally, the former terminal building, which is now leased office space, will be transformed from its current maroon and white color scheme to the new palette.

The updated colors will lighten and cover faded facades and comply with strict Broadway Extension Beautification standards. The paint project is also part of a massive, multi-year initiative to modernize the 82 year-old airport and begin a new era of general aviation for the Kansas City region.

Communications System Gets Major Boost

Work is complete on a new telecommunications room at the Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport. The area will replace years of patch-worked and obsolete cables, creating an efficient, secure area to control the airport's electronic workings. Included in the tech overhaul are phones, computers, emergency response systems, heating and air conditioning, and security access.

The old system utilized one server connected by a single cable to City Hall. The actual feed to the computer network was stored in an office closet at the airport. Phone systems were operated out of a boiler room without protection from its harsh environment.

A new room or vault has since been built to house all information technology components. More than just a wire upgrade, the vault will allow better integration of the systems, redundancy in the event of a power loss and space for future expansion. Additionally, there is technology now in place for disaster recovery cabling should the airport be called to support the community or city government in an emergency. The all-critical task of testing or "cut over" of the new technology has also been completed.

The project was touched off months ago by the modern communication needs of the upcoming hangar complex now about to open. Fisher Electric was hired to build up the storage vault area and assemble most of the fiber and copper cabling to that area.

Expansion Nearing Completion

The Fleet Maintenance operation at Kansas City International Airport will soon be up to speed after months of renovations.

The offices both upstairs and down are ninety-five percent finished. The computer network and phone systems are next in line. The facility's break room has been completed and its conference room is not far behind.

The old, open paint booth has been moved to the new body shop where it is more protected from dust and is about half complete. The three new vehicle work bays are seventy-five percent done and the modern HVAC system is also ninety-five percent finished.



Aviation Adventure Day Takes Off

The Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport was again the host for the annual Aviation Adventure Day sponsored by the Mid-America Youth Aviation Association. The event was held on August 8 and its aimed was to introduce youngsters to careers in aviation. Nearly 240 children received their first airplane ride around the Plaza, Sports Complex and Worlds of Fun. A few lucky ones even got to ride in a helicopter with the doors off. Entitled "Young Eagles", the flights were conducted by the Experimental Aircraft Association. During the event, over 160 Boy Scouts earned their Aviation Merit Badge through classroom training on the theory of flight and time spent on an actual aircraft. In addition, the Federal Aviation Administration provided several desktop simulators and other interactive educational experiences for children too young to participate in the Young Eagles or Boy Scout programs. The Kansas City Fire Department was also on hand and conducted demonstrations of the airport's specialized fire truck.

Aviation Adventure Day is an annual, free event open to the public. More information can be found at www.midamericayouthaviation.com.

Aviation Department Arrivals

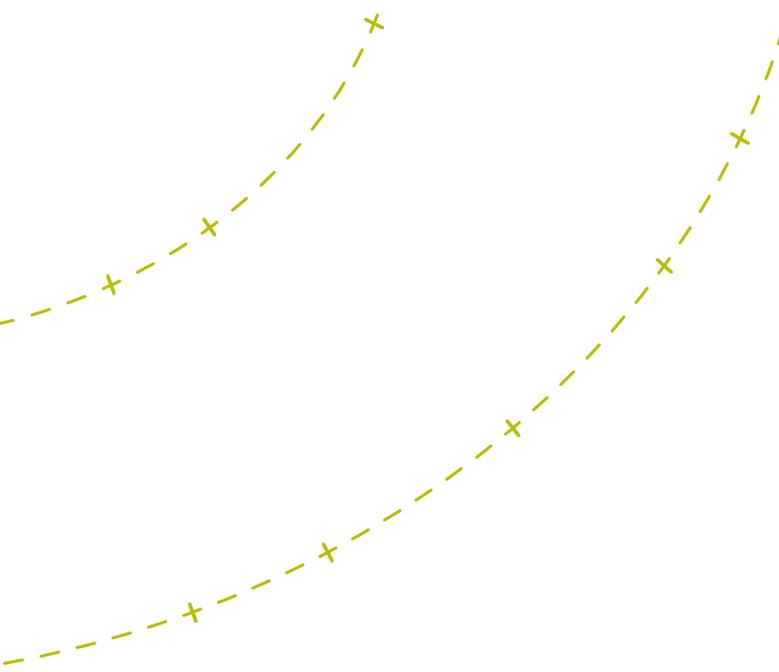
The Kansas City Aviation Department salutes its new, transferred and promoted employees..

- Reginald Duncan - Airport Police Officer
- Christina Gall - Airport Police Officer
- Jeffrey Falls - Mainenance Repairer
- Leah Hullaby - Security Officer
- Lyle Humphrey - Airport Security Dispatcher
- Ashley McNeal - Security Officer
- Shawn Minerd - Security Officer
- Bobby Sanders - Airport Security Dispatcher
- Damon Smith, Sr. - Building Maintenance Worker
- Jennifer Tornquist - Airport Police Officer
- Matthew Zils - Airport Police Officer



This newsletter is printed on 10% post consumer waste paper. Additionally, the paper meets the standards of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council.

The "FlyKCI.com" newsletter is the official publication of the Kansas City Aviation Department and includes developments at both Kansas City International Airport and at Charles B. Wheeler Downtown Airport. Editorial comments may be directed to kathleen_hefner@kcmo.org.



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