



## **Thanksgiving Travel Expected to be Heavy**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – November 17, 2006, New Orleans – The Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport expects a busy Thanksgiving holiday travel period.

“As air travel continues to recover, the airlines serving New Orleans are predicting heavy passenger loads throughout the entire Thanksgiving holiday travel period,” stated Sean Hunter, Interim Director of Aviation at the Airport.

The Airport has been experiencing heavy passenger traffic since the resumption of air service following Hurricane Katrina and that traffic is expected to surge as the Thanksgiving Holiday approaches. Travel is expected to be heavy from Sunday, November 19 through Sunday, November 26 with the heaviest days on Wednesday, November 22 and Sunday, November 26.

The Airport now offers over 5,000 spaces in its two parking garages. The long-term parking garage offers 2,500 spaces at \$12 daily and is short walk to the terminal through two well lit pedestrian bridges. The short term facility offers over 2,500 spaces immediately adjacent to the terminal building. The rate for the short term facility is \$2 for the first hour and \$2 for each additional ½ hour with a \$15 daily maximum.

Also coming available for the first time on Tuesday, November 21, the Airport will operate a “cell phone” lot at the corner of Airline Drive and Hollandey Street across from the Airport Access Road. This lot will provide people picking up arriving passengers a safe, convenient place to wait until the passenger arrives and calls to say that they are at curbside ready for pick-up. Cell phone lots are becoming popular at airports across the country as a way to decrease the vehicular traffic on the roadway systems.

**People picking up passengers at the Airport are encouraged to either park in the short term parking garage and enter the terminal to meet their party or use the cell phone lot.** Patrons are encouraged to use ticketless parking where a credit card is swiped on entrance and again on exit through the Express Pay lanes. This will shorten time spent at the exit plaza because an express lane may be used to exit, rather than waiting in line for a cashier. **Circling the roadway system is not encouraged due to congestion. The cell phone lot is being encouraged for this reason.**

The Airport is expecting heavy vehicle traffic on the Airport Roadway System. Law enforcement officers will be on duty to reroute traffic as necessary, due to vehicle congestion.

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Passengers are reminded that heightened security is in effect at the Airport. If you will be traveling during this busy period, the following suggestions may improve your experience:

- Arrive at least 1 ½ hours prior to your departure time, 2 hours is encouraged.
- Boarding Passes & government issued ID's are required at the security checkpoint.
- Carry-on baggage is limited to one (1) bag plus one (1) personal item such as a small purse, briefcase or laptop computer. **The less baggage passing through security checkpoints, the faster the lines will move.**
- Liquids of 3 oz. or less are allowed through the screening checkpoint. These liquids must be placed in a quart sized Ziploc bag and be placed in a bin separate from your other carry on items. Other restrictions apply; please refer to [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for more complete information.
- All shoes must be removed for inspection at the screening checkpoints.
- If you plan to shop before catching your flight, Airport officials encourage you to do that prior to checking in your luggage because some items purchased pre-security must be placed in your checked baggage due to security restrictions.
- If traveling with gifts, do NOT wrap them, as they may need to be opened for inspection. All gifts should be left unwrapped.
- Avoid wearing clothing, jewelry, and accessories that contain metal. Metal items may set off the alarm on the metal detectors.
- No knives, scissors, blades or sharp objects are permitted beyond security. If you are unsure of an item, please place it in your checked baggage or check with your air carrier.
- Put all undeveloped film and cameras with film in your carry-on baggage. **Checked baggage screening equipment will damage undeveloped film.**
- Only ticketed passengers are allowed beyond security checkpoints.
- Curbside check-in is available for domestic ticketed passengers.
- Additional travel tips can be found on the TSA web site [www.TSATravelTips.us](http://www.TSATravelTips.us).