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News Release

Released: Monday, September 8, 2008
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Thousands of Metro Detroiters Get Sneak Peek inside Detroit Metro Airport's New North Terminal *-- New Terminal Opens to Travelers on Sept. 17*

Although the new North Terminal at Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) won't officially open its doors to travelers until Sept. 17, nearly 11,000 Metro Detroiters checked-in at the new terminal this weekend for a preview of the airport's newest passenger facility.

"The Airport Authority is delighted that so many community members took advantage of the opportunity to experience the North Terminal for themselves," said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. "The incredible attendance at our preview events reinforces that the community is truly interested in their airport, and it was a privilege for us to share this new facility with the customers and the community that we serve."

The North Terminal Preview Events began on Friday, Sept. 5, with a VIP Preview and Charity Benefit. About 1,000 guests were the first members of the public to explore parts of the new terminal while enjoying a strolling dinner by Forte Bellanger and entertainment by *Alizma*—a musical sensation direct from Las Vegas. Guests were also treated to performances by a Detroit Symphony Orchestra Quartet and Detroit's King High School Marching Band, which recently performed at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, China. Proceeds from the ticketed event will benefit the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, First Step, The Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, and Traveler's Aid Society of Metropolitan Detroit.

On Saturday, Sept. 6, the Airport Authority opened its doors to nearly 10,000 members of the community who attended the North Terminal Open House. This free event, which was open to the public, provided an opportunity for all members of the airport community—whether they are frequent travelers or not—to get an inside glimpse of the new terminal. About 2,600 of those attendees were friends and family of WCAA employees and those of its contractors and vendors who designed, built or otherwise contributed to the planning, design and construction of the terminal who participated in a special family preview Saturday morning.

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“Participation in Saturday’s Open House far exceeded our expectation,” said WCAA Deputy Director of Public Affairs Scott Roberts, who coordinated the events. “While it was really a thrill to see so many people interested in the terminal, we also recognize that the huge draw created longer-than-planned wait times for some attendees to get to and from the free parking lot. We really appreciate everyone’s patience and cooperation that enabled as many people to experience the new terminal as possible.”

While participants explored the new North Terminal and learned about this exciting new addition to DTW, they were also treated to a dynamic stage show by Radio Disney, an encore performance by *Alizma*, and some interactive fun with flight simulators, Rock Band, Dance Dance Revolution, Dancing Heads and much more.

Attendees also had an opportunity to enter into a raffle for prizes such as a plane load of gas in gas cards, a trip to Walt Disney World, several round trip airline tickets and various other prizes. Some winners were drawn and announced during the event, but the remaining winners will be contacted in the next several days and their names will appear soon on the event Web site, www.airportopenhouse.com.

About the North Terminal

When it opens in 2008, the new North Terminal will be Detroit’s home to Air Canada, American Airlines, AirTran Airways, Frontier Airlines, Lufthansa German Airlines, Royal Jordanian Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Spirit Airlines, United Airlines, US Airways, USA 3000, and charter airlines. Northwest Airlines and its SkyTeam™ partners AeroMéxico, Air France, Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, will remain in the McNamara Terminal.

The North Terminal Redevelopment Project is creating an estimated 3,200 new, local construction jobs. Upon completion of the new facility, the existing Smith and Berry terminals will be decommissioned—making DTW one of the newest, most operationally-capable and efficient airports in North America. Together with the McNamara Terminal, which opened in 2002, DTW will soon feature two new terminals, nearly 150 gates, six jet runways, and two modern Federal Inspection Services facilities for international arrivals.

Established in 2002 by the Michigan State Legislature, Wayne County Airport Authority is an independent agency responsible for the operation of DTW and Willow Run Airport (YIP). Serving nearly 36 million passengers each year, DTW is the largest airport in Michigan and among the busiest air transportation hubs in the world. DTW’s 17 airlines offer more than 1,200 non-stop flights per day to more than 160 destinations worldwide.

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