

News Release



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Detroit Metro Airport Opens New, Expanded North Cell Phone Waiting Lot

--New lot replaces current waiting area for Smith Terminal

Motorists picking-up an arriving passenger at Detroit Metro Airport's Smith Terminal now have a new, expanded cell phone waiting area. The new, 37-space lot replaces the current waiting area along the curb of Rogell Drive as that roadway will be re-routed as part of the next phase of development for the airport's new North Terminal.

Cell phone waiting lots, which have become popular at airports across the country, were first introduced at Detroit Metro Airport in 2006. These waiting areas help alleviate vehicle congestion at the arrivals curb by providing a safe and free spot for motorists to await a call from their arriving party indicating that they are at the curb with their luggage and ready for pick-up. The cell phone lot also reduces the need for motorists to circle airport roadways while waiting for a passenger that may arrive at the curb later than expected.

"Our cell phone waiting areas have been very popular since day one," said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. "Especially given heightened security, which forces our airport police to be ever more vigilant in keeping traffic moving at the curb front, this new cell phone lot will give even more motorists a better option than circling airport roadways."

The new cell phone waiting lot is located adjacent to the on-airport rental car facilities off East Service Drive near the intersection with Lucas Drive. To access the new lot, drivers approaching the airport from I-94 should follow signs to 'Rental Car Return', exiting at Middlebelt Road (exit 199) and then turning right onto Lucas Drive. Follow Lucas Drive until it ends at East Service Drive, and turn left – the lot entrance will then be on the right.

Customers approaching the airport from the South (I-275/Eureka Rd.), or who have already made one pass at the arrivals curb, should proceed north through the airport on Dingell Drive and follow signs to 'Rental Car Return' and 'North Cell Phone Lot'. (See detailed directions and map attached.)

The cell phone waiting lot is in an area that causes no security concerns; however, motorists *must* remain in their vehicles. Unattended vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

“We still recommend that the best way to meet an arriving passenger is to park in a short term lot and meet your party in the bag claim,” said Robinson. “However, many people simply drive out to the airport and try to sit at the arrivals curb at the time the flight is due to arrive.”

“The new north cell phone waiting lot will not only accommodate more customers, but its location also provides a convenient waiting area for motorists approaching the airport from I-94 who are meeting arriving passengers at any of the airport’s three terminals,” Robinson said.

A map detailing the location of the new north cell lot can be found at www.metroairport.com.

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