

The main terminal at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport will be undergoing improvements to improve passenger flow. RS&H

GSP plans makeover to land more traffic

Work will upgrade terminal, aid flow

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Airport officials hope upgrades to the terminal attract new airlines and lead existing ones to expand service. RS&H

Terminal improvements planned for Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport may help attract new airlines and inspire existing ones to expand their services.

"The bottom line with airlines is they want to see that there's a volume of people that want to travel from point A to point B at a price point that enables them to generate a margin that is positive," said Dave Edwards, GSP president and chief executive officer.

He said if the airport's $115 million Terminal Improvement Project enables GSP to have enough people who want to go to those places that an airline wants to serve, at a price where that they can create an "acceptable" profit margin, "Then this project will help give us a leg up on the level in efficiencies we want to create."

The program, which will modernize and upgrade the airport's more than 50-year-old terminal building and improve passenger flow and convenience, was launched in May.

On Wednesday, the airport announced that the TIP has been branded "WINGSPAN," and that a new website (www.elevatingtheupstate) has been set up to serve as an information hub for travelers and residents.

"What we are hoping to communicate with that brand is that this is much more than just a construction project," said Rosylin Weston, GSP spokeswoman.

"It's more than bricks and mortar or concrete and glass. It really is about progress, it's about sustainability, it's about economic development, it's about economic impact."

Kevin Howell, GSP's chief operating officer, described the program as a series of smaller projects that are expected to be wrapped up in early

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2016.

One of the projects, construction on the new Rental Car Customer Center, is underway in Garage A. It's expected to be completed in November in time for the busy Thanksgiving holidays.

As part of the project, a new baggage carousel will be added and the original two will be refurbished.

Retail and concession areas will be added to the new baggage claim area for those travelers who haven't yet passed the security checkpoint area.

The terminal's concrete exterior, along the baggage claim area, will be replaced with glass windows to allow natural light.

Canopies will be built as a shelter from inclement weather for those being dropped off or picked up. A covered walkway will also be part of the renovations.

Additionally, the passenger screening area will be combined and concession areas will be shifted beyond security screening.

The airport's terminal was built in 1962. It underwent major construction in 1989 when the terminal was expanded.

The project will be paid for with airport funds and monies from the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airport Improvement Program Fund and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), GSP leaders said.

Local taxes won't be used, they said.

More details about GSP's Terminal Improvement Plan are available at www.elevatingtheupstate.com.