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Rental car center spurs economic growth

First year of service benefits passengers and business

ATLANTA — Today marks the first anniversary of the opening of Hartsfield-Jackson’s rental car center. The facility consolidates all car rental companies and their operations into a single location, which is easily accessible from the Airport.

“Everything I’ve heard from customers and the rental car agencies indicates that Hartsfield-Jackson’s rental car center is a huge success,” said Aviation General Manager Louis Miller. “This capital infrastructure investment will pay dividends for our passengers for many years to come.”

Since it opened on December 8, 2009, more than 1.5 million vehicles have been rented at the facility — nearly 7 percent more than in the previous year.

“I travel quite a bit, and this is really the nicest rental car facility I’ve seen,” said E.C. Meckes of southern Florida. “I couldn’t believe how quickly we had our bags and were at the center picking up our car.”

Getting customers like Meckes to the facility so quickly is the [ATL SkyTrain](#), the automated people mover that connects the terminal with the rental car center. The ATL SkyTrain makes the scenic, five-minute trip nearly 500 times a day and has traveled more than 465,500 miles since it began service.

Since it opened, the ATL SkyTrain has carried more than 3.4 million passengers to and from the rental car center, with an operational reliability rate of 99.88 percent.

The Georgia International Convention Center, which connects to the rental car center and the Airport via the TL SkyTrain, is seeing benefits from this capital investment.

“In its first year of operation, the ATL SkyTrain has already proven to have a positive impact on our business. We are finishing this calendar year with revenue increases in spite of the sluggish economy,” said Executive Director Hugh Austin. “With our two new Marriott hotels now open, we are a very unique and much more desirable meeting destination. Being directly connected to the busiest and best-run airport in the world, we offer our clients a new level of convenience.”



Former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin breaks a champagne bottle commissioning the new ATL SkyTrain, which carries Airport passengers to the rental car center, during the grand opening ceremony Dec. 7, 2009.

The rental car center is the second major capital construction project to be completed at Hartsfield-Jackson as part of its 10-year, \$6 billion-plus capital development program. Runway 10-28, the fifth runway, opened in May 2006 and handles about 100,000 aircraft operations annually.

The final major capital project to be completed will be the [Maynard H. Jackson Jr. International Terminal](#). Construction is scheduled to be complete in spring 2012 on the international terminal and its 12-gate concourse.

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Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Hartsfield-Jackson is the world's busiest airport, serving more than 88 million passengers annually with nonstop service to more than 150 U.S. destinations and more than 80 international destinations in more than 50 countries. The Airport is a frequent recipient of awards of excellence for concessions, operations, architectural engineering and construction — including being named the World's Most Efficient Airport by the Air Transport Research Society (for more information, go to www.atrsworld.org). It is undergoing \$6 billion-plus in capital improvements, which include a new, energy-efficient rental car center; a new, 12-gate international terminal; and aesthetic and functional upgrades to its concourses, people movers and parking services. For more information, go to www.atlanta-airport.com. Check out the Airport's YouTube channel by visiting www.youtube.com/AtlantaHartsfield, and become a fan on Facebook.