

Journey With AUS: Outbound baggage handling system

Project description

The outbound baggage handling system (BHS) project will improve AUS's outbound luggage process, i.e. the process that moves checked luggage from the check-in counter, through security screening and to the aircraft.

The BHS is an interconnected network of moving parts including conveyer belts and equipment, most of which require upgrades to meet modern, industry standards.

The completion of this project will allow AUS to process/screen more bags and improve the flow of outbound luggage. The improvements to the system are intended to meet the future demand of *30 million annual passengers*.



Timeline

February 2020
Conceptual designs
finalized

December 2021
Tenant relocation
and construction starts

September 2022
Design approved by
TSA

End of 2024
Initial part of new system
anticipated to begin
processing bags

October 2019

Agreement with contractor,
Whiting-Turner, secured

March 2022

Contractor approved to
complete full design;
tenant relocation
complete

Today

**Delivery and installation
of system begins**



Benefits to passengers

- Increases system reliability.
 - i.e. bags are less likely to miss their flight.
- Decreases potential flight delays from AUS.
- Meets growing outbound passenger demand.

Impacts to passengers and operations

- No visible construction work in the terminal.
- Construction primarily occurs at night and early in the morning when there is less staff and passengers.
- Temporary construction wall and other measures are put in place to ensure we're meeting safety standards throughout the project.

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Cost

The total cost for this project is approximately \$176.7 million.

Funding

The funding for this project comes from traditional airport development funding sources such as airport cash reserves, current and future airport revenues, future revenue bond proceeds and Federal Aviation Administration grants.

Project partners

Whiting-Turner
Prime contractor

AECOM
Subject matter expert

Gensler
Architect

Siemens Logistics
Original equipment manufacturer

VTC
Conceptual designer

GRAEF
Structural designer

Moye Consulting
IT, Security

City of Austin

Department of Aviation; Public Works Department; Capital Contracting Office; Development Services Department; Small and Minority Business Resources Department

Fast facts



Bags will travel on 1.5 miles of conveyor belts with the new system.



Near-term: The BHS will process 2,400 bags per hour (that's 800 more than the current system).



Once fully completed: The BHS will process 4,000 bags per hour.

