



NORTHWEST FLORIDA BEACHES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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NORTHWEST FLORIDA BEACHES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BREAKS GROUND ON NEW 80,000-SQUARE-FOOT NORTH TERMINAL EXPANSION

Three-Phase Project to Add Gates, Enhanced Amenities, and Expanded Capacity

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (January 9, 2026) — Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport (ECP) today broke ground on its new North Terminal, an 80,000-square-foot expansion that marks the start of a three-phase construction project designed to meet the Airport's exceptional growth and elevate the passenger experience.

The new expanded Terminal will add three gates, six airline baggage offices, and four additional baggage claim carousels to ECP's infrastructure. The facility will feature additional concessions, new restrooms, and expanded passenger seating, with escalators, elevators, and stairs connecting two levels. The project also includes plans to relocate and expand the TSA checkpoint to provide expedited security screening.

"Our priority at ECP has always been delivering an exceptional travel experience to every passenger," said Mark Sheldon, Board Chair for Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport. "This expansion is essential to maintaining that commitment as we continue to grow. It will provide the capacity and amenities our passengers deserve while positioning us to welcome new airlines and destinations."

The Expansion represents ECP's response to unprecedented demand. Since the Airport's inauguration 15 years ago, passenger traffic has grown from more than 300,000 annual passengers in 2010 to nearly 2 million passengers in recent years—a 501% increase. As ECP approaches two million annual passengers, the additional capacity is essential to maintain operational efficiency and accommodate continued growth.

Phase one of the project will establish the building infrastructure and envelope, setting the physical footprint for the expansion. Subsequent phases will complete the interior buildout and bring all passenger-facing amenities and services online. The project is funded through a collaborative partnership between state and federal agencies, regional partners, airline partners, and the Airport itself.

"This project represents ECP's remarkable trajectory over the past 15 years," said Mark Sheldon, Chair of the Airport Board of Directors. "What began as a facility serving just over 300,000 passengers annually has grown into a regional economic engine serving nearly two million travelers. Today's groundbreaking ensures we can continue meeting demand while enhancing our role as a vital economic generator for Northwest Florida."

The new Expansion will enable ECP to enhance flight options, attract additional airlines, and provide improved passenger services. With three additional gates and expanded infrastructure, the Airport will have the flexibility to accommodate increased flight frequencies, new routes, and growing passenger volumes.

Beyond serving travelers, the project underscores ECP's significant economic impact on the Region. As a key driver of economic development and diversification, the Airport's expansion will create opportunities for new business partnerships, increased tourism, and continued regional growth.

The Expansion will position ECP to efficiently serve passengers well into the future while maintaining the streamlined, passenger-focused experience for which the Airport is known.

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About Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport

[Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport \(ECP\)](#) is located less than 30 minutes from Panama City Beach, Panama City and the beaches of South Walton. Today, with service from American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, and United Airlines, ECP provides daily and seasonal nonstop flights to Atlanta (ATL), Austin (AUS), Baltimore (BWI), Charlotte (CLT), Chicago (MDW/ORD), Dallas (DAL/DFW), Denver (DEN), Houston (HOU/IAH), Indianapolis (IND), Kansas City (MCI), Nashville (BNA), New York City (LGA), Philadelphia (PHL), St. Louis (STL) and Washington DC (DCA) with connections to cities worldwide. ECP provides Northwest Florida communities with first-class facilities and was strategically developed for major economic development opportunities. ECP is the gateway to visitors seeking Northwest Florida's famous beaches.