

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RDU Parking Deck Opens Today

RDU Airport, NC - Four of five levels of RDU's new \$40 million parking deck will open this afternoon adding more than 2,000 daily parking spaces directly across from the terminals, announced Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority officials.

The lower level and underground pedestrian tunnel will open mid-year following completion of the tunnel and moving sidewalks. Difficult construction and site issues have repeatedly delayed the opening that was originally set for the summer of 1999.

"We are delighted to bring the major portion of this facility on-line," said Bob Winston, chairman of the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority. "We believe our customers will be very pleased with the convenience and beauty of this deck."

The deck was designed with customer convenience in mind. Spacious and well lit, the deck was modeled after ones that emphasize passenger comfort and security. High-intensity lighting, glass-enclosed stairways and elevators provide excellent visibility at any time of the day.

Each level also offers a gate-tracking feature telling passengers where there is available parking before entering the deck.

Parking in the new deck will be charged at a daily parking rate of \$1 per hour with a maximum of \$6 for a 24-hour period.

The deck is the first in a series of parking facilities to be developed in the terminal area during the next ten years. Today's opening, combined with existing lots, raises the total number of on-airport parking spaces to 15,662.

More parking will become available this year with the opening of the first level of the deck and a 2,000-expansion of Park and Ride 3 on National Guard Road.

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