



DETROIT METRO • WILLOW RUN  
WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

## **Statement by Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Lester Robinson:**

"We are all dismayed by the weak U.S. dollar, however, it does provide a great opportunity for our U.S. travel and tourism business," said Lester Robinson, CEO of the Wayne County Airport Authority, which operates Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

"International citizens are now viewing the U.S. as a good travel deal and we should take every opportunity to make their travel experience as friendly and smooth as possible, while still providing vigilant security. I applaud this effort by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and I am pleased that Detroit has been chosen to be included in this initiative."

"If international travelers are treated in a friendly and respectful manner, they are likely to return as well as tell their friends back home what a great time they had in the USA," Robinson continued. "International travelers spent \$122.4 billion in the United States last year—up from \$107.8 billion in 2006 and \$80 billion in 2003. While they only account for 42% of international arrivals, travelers from overseas account for 79% of international travelers' spending in the U.S."

The overall impact of 2007 travel in the U.S. courtesy of the Travel Industry Association:

**NATIONAL — Spending: \$700 Billion | Tax Receipts: \$110 Billion | Employment:  
7.5 Million | Payroll: \$178 Billion**

**MICHIGAN — Spending: \$14.1 Billion | Tax Receipts: \$2.3 Billion | Employment:  
148,900 Jobs | Payroll: \$3.4 Billion**

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*See U.S. Customs and Border Protection news release to follow.*



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

# News Release

**Embargoed until April 25, 2008**

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## **CBP Announces Expansion of ‘Model Ports’ Initiative**

**WASHINGTON** – U.S. Customs and Border Protection today announced the selection of 18 additional airports that will be part of the Model Ports Initiative. This joint venture between federal agencies, the travel industry, airlines and airport authorities was designed to improve our processes for clearing and welcoming travelers into the United States.

“The Model Ports Initiative represents an important partnership between government and the travel industry. We will work together at each of these 20 gateway airports to strengthen the international passenger arrivals process and environment,” said Paul M. Morris, executive director of CBP admissibility and passenger programs.

The Model Ports Initiative is part of The Rice-Chertoff Initiative established in 2006 to enhance border security with the use of the best new technologies, while streamlining security processes and facilitating travel for legitimate visitors.

The keystone of these efforts is a new video, currently available in Spanish, French, German and English, that assists travelers through the customs and immigration process, a “Welcome to the U.S.” brochure and a variety of new bi-lingual directional signage. In the coming months, travelers arriving at these airports will see several improvements, including an increased number of video monitors, a welcome message and information on the entry process. In addition, working groups from the private and public sectors will be established in these cities to create a better overall passenger experience.

The 18 airports were selected based on the locations with the largest number of foreign visitors arriving annually. International airports in the following cities have been selected: New York (JFK), Miami, Los Angeles, Newark, Chicago (O’Hare), Honolulu, San Francisco, Atlanta, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Orlando, **Detroit**, Boston, Las Vegas, Sanford (Fla.), Seattle, Philadelphia, San Juan and Ft. Lauderdale.

The Model Ports Initiative has been operational since April 2007 with George Bush Intercontinental in Houston and Washington Dulles International airports serving as the first two sites.

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Page two

On an average day, CBP welcomes 1.13 million travelers into the U.S., including more than 251,000 air passengers. CBP staffs 327 ports of entry nationwide, while enforcing over 400 U.S. laws.

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security charged with the management, control and protection of our nation's borders at and between official ports of entry. CBP is charged with keeping terrorists and terrorist weapons out of the country while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws.*

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