



# News Release

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## **TSA Awards up to \$21 Million for San José Airport Terminal B Baggage Screening System** ***Potential total for SJC modernization now more than \$41 million***

*San José, CA* – The United States Transportation Security Administration ([TSA](#)) has awarded funding of up to \$20,916,000 for a new state-of-the-art baggage screening system for the new Terminal B as part of the comprehensive modernization project underway at Mineta San José International Airport ([SJC](#)).

"This state-of-the-art baggage handling system will bolster security and streamline the baggage screening process at Mineta San José International Airport," said Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano.

"Infusing nearly \$21 million in Recovery Act funding into the San Jose economy will create local jobs while enhancing our capabilities to detect threats and protect passengers."

The federal grant represents 90 percent of the potential allowable costs of the automated in-line checked baggage explosive detection system that the airport will install in its new terminal under construction. Last year the airport also received TSA funding now totaling \$20.6 million for the Terminal A baggage system. The funding comes through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the federal economic stimulus program.

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“Our continuing partnership with the federal government is improving our ability to protect the public while contributing to our local economic stimulus,” said San José Mayor Chuck Reed. “TSA’s impressive commitment to our airport is a welcome investment that will benefit our community and travelers in Silicon Valley.”

Construction of the Terminal B baggage system is already under way, and the completed system will be operational before the opening of the new terminal scheduled in June 2010. The airport will be reimbursed by TSA for project costs as it makes documented progress, and the final amount of federal funding could be lower than the \$21 million authorized by the agreement.

“Together with help from the federal government, Silicon Valley is investing in the infrastructure of the 21st Century,” said Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. “I’m looking forward to the airport’s completion next year, and I’m delighted that we can work together to turn it into reality.”

According to Congressman Mike Honda, “With this investment in San Jose Airport, we can both help keep people safe and get our economy going again. This is an excellent example of how a federal/local partnership will result in real benefits for everyone.”

The new baggage explosive detection systems for both terminals will include conveyors that move passengers’ checked bags to an array of automated security screening machines, with additional conveyors to move screened bags for staging for aircraft loading. In addition, the project includes upgrades to the structures’ electrical power and mechanical systems to support the new equipment.

Under the terms of the agreements, TSA retains ownership of the explosive detection equipment and responsibility for its operation in both terminals, and the airport will be responsible for structural improvements, operations, and maintenance.

“When these new baggage systems are in operation next year, San Jose will have the most technologically advanced and efficient airport in the nation,” said Bill Sherry, SJC aviation director. “We will offer significant safety, efficiency, and customer service enhancements that will greatly benefit our passengers, TSA, and our airline partners.

“The new systems will let us screen more bags faster with fewer people. This will help both TSA and our airlines reduce their operational costs, an essential goal in view of the current economic challenges facing the aviation industry.”

**About the SJC Terminal Area Improvement Program**

Phase 1 of SJC's \$1.3 billion [terminal area improvement program](#) involves the modernization and replacement of the airport's terminal facilities. The construction of a new Terminal B and Terminal B Concourse that will take the place of Terminal C, originally built in 1965. The program includes upgrades and expansion at Terminal A to provide more spacious and comfortable waiting areas and faster security check-in systems.

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The program also includes a new 3350-space rental car and public parking garage directly in front of Terminal B; expanded space for more options for quality food, beverage, and retail services; an extensive public art program; and improved roadways serving the airport for more convenient access.

The modernization program remains on-schedule and on-budget for completion by the end of 2010. Plans for future airport expansion in Phase 2, which would extend Terminal B and add new gates, will be contingent on reaching growth triggers for the number of flights or passengers pre-established in collaboration with the airlines serving San José.

**About Mineta San José International Airport**

Mineta San José International Airport is a self-supporting enterprise owned and operated by the City of San José. SJC served 9.7 million passengers and handled approximately 162 million pounds of air cargo in 2008. SJC currently has approximately 140 daily flights on 13 domestic and international carriers to 27 nonstop destinations.

The airport is located in San José, the Capital of Silicon Valley, California's third largest city and the nation's tenth largest city (population 1,007,000). For more Airport information, visit [www.flysanjose.com](http://www.flysanjose.com). Motorists can also tune their radios to 530 AM within two miles of SJC for current information on airport traffic, parking and security.

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