



# MEMNotes

from MEMPHIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



## Memorial Day Travelers Fuel Busiest Day Since the Pandemic

Nearly 40,000 people passed through the TSA security checkpoint during the Memorial Day travel period May 28-June 1, reflecting an increasing return to travel for MEM passengers. The May 29 checkpoint total of 7,685 was the busiest day at MEM since the beginning of the pandemic, and TSA reported that it was the busiest day nationwide since the pandemic as well.

For the month of May 2021, MEM's total checkpoint throughput was 190,335, our busiest month since December 2019. Other passenger statistics:

- Compared to May 2020, May 2021 throughput was up 474%.
- Compared to May 2019, May 2021 throughput was down 22.5%.

MEM continues to recover at about 10% faster rate than the national average.

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## Memphis International Airport announces student art and photography contest winners

Memphis International Airport (MEM) has announced the winners of its 14th annual High School Visual Arts and Photography Competition. The winners were announced as part of a virtual event on Wednesday, May 19, which can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/EIq7CB5uK0M>. Following are this year's winners:

### **Paintings - View all finalists**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: "A Levitt Picnic," Meredith Dai, Collierville High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "Through Her Eyes," Hannah Thomas, Germantown High School
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "Colors of Memphis," Vibha Duraikkannan, Collierville High School

### **Photographs - View all finalists**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: "Stars Over Memphis," Andrew Cunningham, Bartlett High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: "The Bluff," Aria Battle, City University School of Liberal Arts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: "The Last Day, The Last Stay," Emeri Thurman, Whitehaven High School

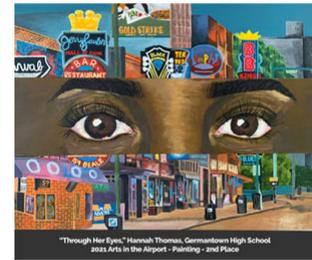
All finalists will receive a certificate and the winners will receive the following prizes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$300
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$200

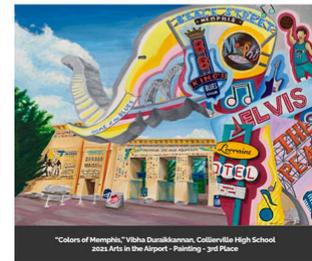
Prizes were provided by this year's sponsors, including A&B Construction Company, Chris-Hill Construction, Flintco, Kimley-Horn, and UrbanARCH. The winners were selected by a panel of judges from the local art community, including representatives from the University of Memphis, the Withers Collection Museum & Gallery, UrbanArt Commission and the Dixon Gallery and Gardens.



"A Levitt Picnic" Meredith Dial, Collierville High School  
2021 Arts in the Airport - Painting - 1st Place



"Through Her Eyes" Hannah Thomas, Germantown High School  
2021 Arts in the Airport - Painting - 2nd Place



"Colors of Memphis" Yibai Danilbaekson, Collierville High School  
2021 Arts in the Airport - Painting - 3rd Place



"Stars Over Memphis," Andrew Cunningham,  
Bartlett High School  
2021 Arts in the Airport - Photography - 1st Place



"The Roof" Yibai Danilbaekson, Collierville High School  
2021 Arts in the Airport - Photography - 2nd Place



"The Last Day, The Last Stay," Emerl Thurman, Whitehaven High School  
2021 Arts in the Airport - Photography - 3rd Place

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## Airlines at MEM move all baggage operations to B baggage lobby

As of Wednesday, May 26, all airlines at Memphis International Airport conduct baggage operations in the B baggage lobby. American Airlines, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines have now moved baggage service offices to the B area. All other airlines already utilize the B baggage area. The move is taking place ahead of the anticipated opening of the [modernized B Concourse](#) later this year, which is now targeted for this fall.

United's baggage service office will be located next to the Delta Air Lines baggage office, while both American Airlines and United Airlines have offices near carousel 4. For passengers, the changes will result in all inbound baggage being claimed in the B baggage lobby. Airlines, rather than the airport, handle all aspects of baggage operations.

[Read Full News Release](#)

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## Airport Authority board passes FY 2022 budget

### **\$128.4 million budget includes CRRSAA funding, lower rent and landing fees for airlines/tenants**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (May 21, 2021) – The Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority (MSCAA) Board of Commissioners voted Thursday to approve a balanced MSCAA budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022).

The \$128.4 million Operations and Maintenance (O&M) budget sets the fees and charges that the airlines pay to the Airport Authority and establishes spending authority for MSCAA operations. This budget does not include construction project expenditures. The MSCAA budget was unanimously supported by the Memphis International Airport's airline committee partners and approved by the Board's Finance and Administration Committee. MSCAA is self-funded and receives no local tax revenue from the City of Memphis or Shelby County.

This fiscal year budget reflects the Airport's initial stages of recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The recent increase in passenger air travel and the strong presence of cargo activity at Memphis International Airport has contributed to very competitive rates and charges for the airport's passenger and cargo airlines.

For the upcoming fiscal year 2022, operating revenues are projected to be up by 6.9% compared to the previous year. This projected increase in revenue is due to the initial recovery of air service from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had significantly reduced air travel, parking and other passenger revenue at MEM. The increase in total revenue will be supplemented with \$8 million of remaining Federal CARES funds, \$14.4 million in new federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSAA) funding and \$4 million in surplus funds that will carry over from the prior FY2021 operations. In addition, MSCAA increased operating expenses and capital outlay by 11.9 % in several areas that were reduced or deferred due to cost control and cutting measures in fiscal years of 2020 and 2021.

in salaries and wages.

This budget decreases terminal rates and charges to \$69.99 per average per square foot compared to \$77.01 per square foot in FY 2021. Airline terminal rental fees are calculated by dividing the terminal's net operating cost by the total rented space.

Landing fees decreased to \$1.2723 per 1,000 lbs. of landed weight compared to last year's rate of \$1.2993. The addition of Federal CARES and CRRSAA funding greatly reduced the pandemic's impact on MEM rates.

Terminal rent and landing fees comprise a small percentage of the airlines' overall operating costs at airports and do not have a significant effect on airfares.

While passenger traffic has decreased significantly nationwide due to COVID-19, the pandemic has had a much lesser impact on cargo. The presence of FedEx, which represents the vast majority of landed weight revenue for MEM, reflects a huge asset that other airports do not have.

"The MSCAA staff has worked tirelessly to overcome the budgetary challenges of this historic pandemic, and the subsequent ongoing recovery" said Pace Cooper, Chairman of the MSCAA Board of Commissioners. "MSCAA is financially sound and is keeping costs as low as possible for our airlines and tenants, who are also dealing with the financial effects of COVID-19. While it will take time, MEM is well positioned to be a leader in the aviation industry's recovery."

Highlights of the FY 2022 MSCAA budget:

- Total revenues/other sources: \$128,391,600
- Total expenses, capital outlay, debt service, and debt service coverage: \$128,391,600
- Landing fees: \$1.2723 /thousand lbs., compared to \$1.2988 last year
- Terminal square foot rate: \$69.99, compared to \$77.01 last year

[Read Full News Release](#)

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## **American Airlines launches seasonal nonstop Memphis-Orlando service**

American Airlines has launched seasonal weekly nonstop service between Memphis International Airport (MEM) and Orlando International Airport (MCO) as of June 5, 2021. The airline will utilize a 76-seat Embraer 175 aircraft for the route, which will operate on Saturdays through September 4. Tickets are on sale at [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com).

With the addition of Orlando, American Airlines will offer service between Memphis and seven destinations, including Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, Phoenix, and Washington, D.C.

"American Airlines' seasonal service to Orlando is sure to be a welcome addition to MEM's summer travelers," said Pace Cooper, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority. "We hope to continue this momentum as we continue to work diligently to restore air service affected by the pandemic."

"We are thrilled to offer new nonstop service between Memphis and Orlando in time for summer, giving local travelers the opportunity to experience the wonder of Orlando and its endless outdoor adventures," said Brian Znotins, American Airlines Vice President of Network Planning. "We look forward to welcoming more Memphis travelers to fly with us and further connecting them to our global network."

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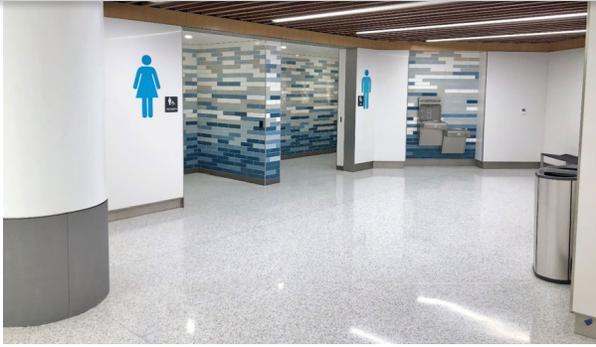


## Reinvented B Concourse Begins to Take Shape

Work continued to progress on the [modernized B Concourse](#), which is currently targeted to open this fall. Contractors are currently working on the news and gift and restaurant locations, as well as operations spaces for airlines and other tenants on the apron level. In addition, [art installation](#) has begun for the hanging sculpture, glass installation near restrooms, and the mural near the concourse entrance.

The latest photo gallery is available on the [Modernization Images](#) page at [flymemphis.com](http://flymemphis.com).



[View modernization photo gallery](#)

# Homeland Security

## DHS Announces Extension of REAL ID Full Enforcement Deadline

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas announced the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has extended the REAL ID full enforcement date by 19 months, from October 1, 2021 to May 3, 2023, due to circumstances resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has significantly impacted states' ability to issue REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses and identification cards, with many driver's licensing agencies still operating at limited capacity. DHS will publish an interim final rule in the coming days to effectuate this enforcement date change.



“Protecting the health, safety, and security of our communities is our top priority,” said Secretary Mayorkas. “As our country continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, extending the REAL ID full enforcement deadline will give states needed time to reopen their driver's licensing operations and ensure their residents can obtain a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card.”

Beginning May 3, 2023, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card, state-issued enhanced driver's

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## Transportation Security Administration

### TSA extends face mask requirement at airports and throughout the transportation network

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is extending the face mask requirement for individuals across all transportation networks throughout the United States, including at airports, onboard commercial aircraft, on over-the-road buses, and on commuter bus and rail systems through September 13.

TSA's initial face mask requirement went into effect on February 1 with an expiration date of May 11.

"The federal mask requirement throughout the transportation system seeks to minimize the spread of COVID-19 on public transportation," said Darby LaJoye, the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the TSA Administrator. "Right now, about half of all adults have at least one vaccination shot and masks remain an important tool in defeating this pandemic. We will continue to work closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to evaluate the need for these directives and recognize the significant level of compliance thus far."

The CDC recently announced that fully vaccinated travelers with an FDA-authorized vaccine can travel safely within the U.S., but the CDC guidelines still require individuals to wear a face mask, socially distance, and wash their hands or use hand sanitizer. The extension of the face mask requirement is consistent with this most recent CDC guidance. TSA encourages all commuters, and airline and bus travelers, including people considering international travel, to stay up to date with any changes to these requirements by checking the [TSA](#) and [CDC websites](#) prior to taking their trip.

#### Face masks required.



TSA requires proper wearing of face masks, per federal law. Face masks are to be worn at all times. Failure to comply will result in denial of entry to the screening area, and may result in penalties.



Stay Healthy. Stay Secure.  
[tsa.gov/coronavirus](https://tsa.gov/coronavirus)



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

## CDC Issues Updated Guidance on Travel for Fully Vaccinated People

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its travel guidance for fully vaccinated people to reflect the latest evidence and science. Given [recent studies](#) evaluating the real-world effects of vaccination, CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people can travel at low risk to themselves. A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the last recommended dose of vaccine.

Fully vaccinated people can travel within the United States and do not need COVID-19 testing or post-travel self-quarantine as long as they continue to take COVID-19 precautions while traveling – wearing a mask, avoiding crowds, socially distancing, and washing hands frequently.

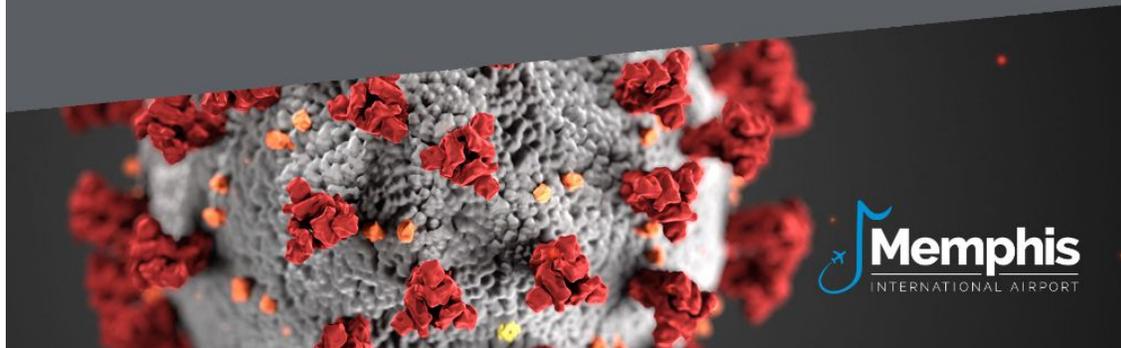
“With millions of Americans getting vaccinated every day, it is important to update the public on the latest science about what fully vaccinated people can do safely, now including guidance on safe travel,” said CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky. “We continue to encourage every American to get vaccinated as soon as it’s their turn, so we can begin to safely take steps back to our everyday lives. Vaccines can help us return to the things we love about life, so we encourage every American to get vaccinated as soon as they have the opportunity.”

[Read Full CDC News Release](#)

## MEM and COVID-19 (Coronavirus):

Learn more at:

[www.flymemphis.com/covid-19](http://www.flymemphis.com/covid-19)



### Keeping the Public Informed

We have created and continue to update a page on our website to keep the public informed of the steps being taken at MEM in response to COVID-19. Screens like the graphic above are currently in rotation in baggage claim and on the jumbotrons.

Visit the page here, and pass along to any of your contacts who may ask what the airport is doing: <https://flymemphis.com/covid-19>

[Read More](#)



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