



CHARLES M. SCHULZ - SONOMA COUNTY AIRPORT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Sonoma County Airport Receives Stimulus Funds for Terminal Remodel

SANTA ROSA, CA – Charles M. Schulz – Sonoma County Airport (STS) has received \$1,685,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to remodel and expand the passenger terminal. The total budget for the project is \$1,757,000; the difference between the grant and total project cost will be funded by the Airport with Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) funds. The terminal remodel will improve passenger comfort at STS.

Construction is anticipated to begin by the end of July and is expected to take six to eight months to complete. The remodel includes the addition of almost 5,000 square feet to the existing terminal, expanding the terminal by one third. The plans call for relocation of the screening checkpoint, expansion of the passenger waiting areas, addition of two new restrooms, a new baggage system, a new baggage processing room, doubling the size of the ticket counters, relocation of the rental car counters, and more room overall for passenger comfort. The face of the building and the restaurant will remain the same; the remodel will connect the existing terminal and security building to make one large building. The south facing side of the remodeled terminal is designed as a large glass wall overlooking the restaurant patio area. The new glass wall will open to allow fresh air into the terminal.

The construction contract was awarded to Murray Building, Inc. of Sonoma in the amount of \$1,582,709 for the base project. An alternate item to include a baggage carousel has been approved and will be added to the remodel. The costs over the award amount include permitting, architectural fees, and construction administration. The Santa Rosa office of Mead & Hunt, an architectural and engineering firm, designed the remodel. The terminal will be open for business during construction; flight schedules, safety, and security standards will remain in place.

“We expect the terminal remodel project will greatly improve the passenger experience at the Sonoma County Airport. We ask that you excuse our dust during this process, but the finished project will be well worth the wait,” said Jon Stout, Airport Manager.

“I am pleased this will improve the terminal and enhance air service,” said Supervisor Paul Kelley, whose district contains the Airport. “Thanks to the Federal Stimulus money, this project is good for jobs, the economy, and people of Sonoma County.” The project will provide work for 110 people.

Since Horizon Air started service in April 2007 with flights to Los Angeles and Seattle, flights to Portland and Las Vegas were added to the schedule. It quickly became apparent that the existing 1960’s era terminal was not designed to serve current security needs and the numbers of passengers the Airport is experiencing.

Stout added, "The remodel will satisfy current needs and put the Airport in a good position to respond to airlines when the economy turns around and airlines may once again show interest in our market. We will continue to pursue the construction of an entirely new terminal but cannot justify all-new construction at this time."

Future air service plans include adding an eastern hub to the flight schedule like Salt Lake City, Denver, or Phoenix, the southern destination of San Diego, and increased frequency to Seattle (two times a day) and Los Angeles (three times a day).

Since Horizon Air began scheduled service in March 2007, close to 370,000 passengers have flown in and out of the Sonoma County Airport. Horizon Air considers Sonoma County a strong market and is pleased with their performance here.

"The people of Sonoma County and their airport have been very supportive of Horizon since we brought air service back to the community," said Dan Russo, Horizon Air's vice president of marketing and communications. "These terminal building improvements will add more comfort to an already convenient and time-saving experience when customers choose to fly from Sonoma County."

If you would like to receive email updates on the progress of the project call the Airport office at (707) 565-7243 or send a request to airport@sonoma-county.org to be added to the terminal remodel list. Interested parties can also sign up for general Airport News on the Contact Us page at sonomacountyairport.org or flysts.com.

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For e-file copies of terminal renderings contact the Airport at (707) 565-7241 or email airport@sonoma-county.org.

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Sonoma County Airport: <http://www.sonomacountyairport.org/>