



## THE NUMBERS ARE IN

*Asheville Regional Airport posts a second year of historic growth*

*Asheville Regional Airport celebrated its second consecutive year surpassing 2 million passengers, with 2,174,125 travelers in 2024, despite a 3% dip following storm-related disruptions. The airport continues to solidify its role as the region's gateway, driven by increased airline services, new nonstop destinations, and strong support from local residents. Construction on the new concourse, set to open in 2025, remains on schedule, reflecting the airport's commitment to meeting the demands of its growing passenger base and delivering world-class service. AVL has a \$3.9 billion economic impact on the region and support for 22,745 jobs in western North Carolina.*

Asheville Regional Airport (AVL) announces two years of two million passengers. The airport served 2,174,125 passengers in 2024, the second highest number in the airport's history. This huge year of passenger utilization comes after the stunning 22.2% increase in 2023, that yielded the first-ever year of serving more than 2 million annual passengers. Year over year, Asheville Regional Airport had only a modest decrease from its previous record-setting year.

The 3% decrease in passengers comes in the months immediately after the impacts of Helene. "We knew the storm could affect passenger numbers," said Lew Bleiweis, President and CEO, "To surpass the 2 million passenger mark for two years in a row is a testament to our community. AVL continues to be an important gateway to and from western North Carolina."

The first three quarters of 2024 maintained and surpassed projections based on 2023's passenger data and demonstrated the popularity of the region as a nationally recognized travel destination. Local residents maintained the trend of flying from their preferred regional airport, and the airlines increased their services, adding frequency, replacing smaller planes with larger jets to accommodate more passengers, and announcing new nonstop destinations. This included addition

of nonstop flights to Orlando International Airport (MCO). Bleiweis focused on the positives of 2024, “We want to extend our gratitude to our airline partners for continuing to believe in our region as a premier destination and to our residents for choosing to fly local and using AVL as their airport.”

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)



## TRAVEL CHECKLIST FOR 2025

*Plan ahead for a year of travel*

The new year is full of possibilities for travel. Whether you already have trips planned or are considering traveling this year, here are some things to check off of your travel checklist for 2025:

**GET YOUR REAL ID:** The deadline for the enforcement of [REAL ID requirements](#) is quickly approaching! Beginning May 7, 2025, all U.S. travelers must be REAL ID compliant in order to board domestic flights. How do you get a REAL ID compliant ID? Visit your state's licensing agency [website](#) to find out what documents are required and to make an appointment.

**ENROLL IN TSA PRECHECK®:** There are numerous benefits to enrolling in TSA PreCheck® including shorter wait times in line at the security checkpoint (most passengers with TSA PreCheck® wait 10 minutes or less) and the ability to leave on shoes, belts and light jackets during screening. More than 200 airports (including AVL) in the US and 90+ airlines provide TSA PreCheck®. [Visit the website](#) to view enrollment information.

**DOWNLOAD YOUR AIRLINE'S MOBILE APP:** Do you want to have all of your flight information (including your boarding pass) at the touch of a button? How about access to real-time flight updates? The best way to travel smart is by downloading the mobile app for your airline. The app allows you to easily check in, access your boarding pass, receive updates, look up information and more! [View the list](#) of airlines that operate at AVL and be sure to download the app before you fly.

**PLAN YOUR TRIP:** This is, by far, the most fun item on the checklist! It's time to pick your destination, plan your itinerary and book your flight for your next travel adventure. AVL flies to 27 different destinations so that you can fly nonstop to your next getaway or around the world with one easy connection. The possibilities are endless when flying from AVL. [Book your trip](#) today and make 2025 a year of travel.





## NEW ID REQUIREMENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA



North Carolina's  
**REAL ID**  
For information go to [NCREALID.GOV](https://NCREALID.GOV)

### DO YOU HAVE YOUR REAL ID?

*The deadline is approaching in May of 2025*

You have probably heard about REAL ID — the new ID requirements to board domestic flights. With the deadline quickly approaching, it is important to know exactly what REAL ID is and what it means for you. The REAL ID deadline will take effect on **May 7, 2025**.

The REAL ID Act was originally passed back in 2005, and aimed to "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses." The Act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and prohibited certain federal agencies from accepting cards that don't meet those standards including accessing certain federal facilities and boarding commercial aircraft.

How do you know if you have a REAL ID compliant license? There will be a special marking on the upper portion of the card (you can view examples on the [DHS website](#)). If you want to get a REAL ID compliant license, then you can go to the website for your state's driver's licensing agency to view the documents required and make an appointment. There are also [other forms of ID](#), like a passport, that you can use that are REAL ID compliant.

We're only a few months away from the REAL ID deadline. Don't wait! Make sure you have your REAL ID, or an acceptable form of ID, so that you are ready to fly.

[READ MORE](#)

# AVL FORWARD

## UPDATE



### A NEW YEAR OF EXCITING PROGRESS



The temperature may have cooled, but the construction progress on AVLForward is heating up! November and December 2024, saw significant progress on the new concourse. The team continued work on glass installation, framing, insulation, and rough-ins, ensuring the structure stayed on track. Drywall installation began, marking another key milestone.

- The glass for the **North Concourse** will feature sustainable electrochromic glazing, which automatically tints when needed to enhance comfort for passengers and employees while reducing energy consumption for climate control. Jarred Merrill, Vice President of Planning said, “This progress reflects our commitment to sustainability, efficiency, and creating a comfortable, cutting-edge space for all.” We know that our passengers will also appreciate those beautiful mountain views!
- For the **Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT)**, a major milestone was achieved on December 17, when the structural steel tower cab was lifted and set into place. The Base Building is on track for substantial completion in early 2025, paving the way for FAA equipment installation.
- Additionally, advancements were made in the **baggage handling system**, while mechanical and electrical equipment were successfully set in place. Looking ahead, finishes such as Terrazzo flooring and exterior metal panels beginning installation and should be completed soon.



Every month is one step closer to our ribbon cutting this summer, when AVLForward becomes AVL now!



SEE THE FUTURE>

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THIS INCREDIBLE MILESTONE

*Celebrating the first piece of vertical steel in the North Concourse*



On a cold January morning, a small crowd gathered at Asheville Regional Airport to watch a major milestone take place on the journey to a new terminal. The group stood in the early morning light in the wide-open space that, just a few months earlier, had been the site of the old north concourse. The orange glow of the rising sun began to peak over the terminal. A lone crane carefully lifted a tall piece of steel into place as the crowd watched in anticipation.

The raising of the first piece of vertical steel for the new North Concourse on January 3, 2024, was the beginning of the biggest infrastructure project in the airport's history and had already been years in the making.

The first piece of vertical steel is now one year old and the progress that has been made in only one year is amazing! One year ago, we had a flat, dirt-covered patch of ground in the aftermath of the demolition of the old concourse, and now the North Concourse is standing beside the existing terminal and is on track to open this summer.

READ MORE

**SMOOCHES**  
*from*  
**POOCHES**

**PAWS**  
FOR PASSENGERS



## SMOOCHES FROM POOCHES

*Join our Paws for Passengers pups for a sweet experience*

Will you be flying through AVL on Valentine's Day this year? If so, then be sure to check out AVL's Smooches from Pooches event. Our Paws for Passengers ambassa-dogs will have a booth set up in baggage claim and will be handing out sweet treats to passengers. Stop by for a photo, chocolate kiss and a whole lot of puppy love this Valentine's Day! Stay tuned for more Paws for Passengers events that will take place throughout the year.

AVL's Paws for Passengers is a special program in which therapy pets and their handlers interact with passengers and visitors at the airport. These special volunteers help to create a welcoming and calming environment for everyone at AVL. [Read more](#) about the program on our website.

[VIEW PHOTOS FROM LAST YEAR'S EVENT](#)

## 5 AIRLINES. 27 NONSTOP DESTINATIONS. LET'S GO!



[BOOK YOUR FLIGHT TODAY](#)



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