



THE FUTURE IS GROUNDBREAKING

Airport breaks ground on new air traffic control tower, a once-in-decades historic event

Asheville Regional Airport and the **Federal Aviation Administration** joined together on January 25, 2023 to break ground on a new air traffic control tower (ATCT). The new ATCT will replace the existing 62-year-old tower, which is one of the oldest in the country and is currently located within the airport terminal. The new ATCT is a \$55 million project (\$44 million construction and \$11 million for equipment and technology) and will be located on the west side of the airport, across the runway from the airport terminal.

"It isn't every day that an airport gets the opportunity to build an air traffic control tower," said Lew Bleiweis, A.A.E., Greater Asheville Regional Airport (GARAA) President and CEO. "Control towers are iconic and vastly important to the nation's aviation system – key infrastructure that allows aviation of all kinds to operate safely and efficiently. AVL needs a new tower, and this historic day is one more step toward the infrastructure growth we need to meet the swiftly growing air service needs in western North Carolina."

READ MORE + SEE PHOTOS FROM THE CELEBRATION

Check out news coverage of the historic event, including an interview with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg.



>WLOS TV-13 | ABC
 >Spectrum News
 >WSPA TV 7 | CBS
 >Federal Aviation Administration
 >U.S. Department of Transportation

>Asheville Citizen-Times
 >Hendersonville Times-News
 >Hendersonville Lightning
 >CAPA

THE NUMBERS ARE IN

1.8 million passengers served in 2022; \$2.2 billion in economic impact

Important numbers are in, and 2022 was a record year of passenger utilization for the Asheville Regional Airport (AVL). 1,838,793 passengers flew to or from AVL in 2022, a 29% increase over 2021, and the highest number of passengers ever served in one year.

Also just released, the North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Aviation economic impact study shows that AVL contributes \$2.26 billion in annual economic impact to the region. The airport supports 10,655 jobs, contributes \$118 million in tax revenue to the region, and more than \$700 million in personal income.

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CONSTRUCTION AT THE AIRPORT

A few changes coming soon

As the airport continues to plan for a major expansion and renovation, “make ready” construction work will become more noticeable to passengers. This month, modular buildings arrived and were placed south of Gate 1. They are visible through the windows – and soon, they will be open for use.

These modular units will become a gate area where passengers will wait to board their flights – and we will have them open and in use for a temporary two-year period of time. Why? We must have this gate space in place and operational in order to close the north concourse for demolition.

These buildings are being connected to utilities and renovated to accommodate passenger use, and then we will build a connector breezeway from our south gate room. It is estimated that we will open the temporary gate area this spring.

We will continue to share information here as progress is made.

STUDENT ARTWORK SHOWCASE

Stop by the gallery before your next trip

Asheville Regional Airport is pleased to announce that its annual Student Artwork Showcase is on display in its art gallery. Students ranging from elementary to high school, using a variety of mediums, have been selected to exhibit in the showcase. Passengers and visitors will be able to enjoy the art through March 16, 2023.

The following schools are represented in the showcase:

Asheville School
Brevard Elementary School
Christ School

This unique exhibit allows thousands of travelers who pass through the airport daily to get a glimpse of the talent coming from local art students. Each piece was specifically selected and submitted by the art teachers from the participating schools.

[LEARN MORE>](#)

SPRING BREAK, SUMMER SIZZLE, FALL FOLLIES

It's not too soon to book a trip

It's ok – dream a little! Where do you envision yourself traveling in the coming year?

How about turning that dream into a reality! You can go just about anywhere in the world either nonstop or with an easy connection, starting right here at AVL. With 25 nonstop options, including to many international hubs, travel to and from AVL has never been easier.

Six airlines, Allegiant, American, Delta, JetBlue, Sun Country and United, provide excellent air service to and from AVL.



BOOK YOUR FLIGHT TODAY



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