



## AGTA News from the Airport Curb



CINCINNATI/NORTHERN KENTUCKY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

### AGTA NEWS

AGTA REMEMBERS A GOOD FRIEND



*Jeff Finkel*

We are saddened to inform you we have just learned that Jeff Finkel, President of GO Yellow Checker Shuttle in Dallas, passed away November 8 following a stroke in late October. He was survived by Bonnie, his wife of more than 50 years, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

The "Raleigh Meeting In Review" is still in progress.

Stay tuned!



## Reminder

2023 RENEWAL INVOICES WILL BE  
ISSUED NOVEMBER 15  
AND WILL BE DUE JANUARY 1, 2023

## GROUND TRANSPORTATION NEWS

### [On the Road to Ground-Transportation Savings](#)

**MeetingsNet.com** - Nov. 8, 2022

The prices of airport shuttles and other ground-transportation services are revving up. According to a recent MPI Meetings Outlook survey, 85 percent of respondents expect to see price increases in ground transportation, and 38 percent expect those increases to be higher than 10 percent.

Short of cancelling off-site events, here are some ideas for cutting the ground-transportation tab.

#### **Creative Ground-Transportation Cost Cuts**

- Rather than group shuttles, ask attendees to use ride-share services like Uber to get themselves from the airport to the hotel or from the hotel to off-site venues. Arrange for a discount code with the ride-share company and send the code to attendees ahead of the event. Try getting a sponsor for this.
- If there's a mass-transit stop near your hotel, provide attendees with clear information on using the destination's mass-transit options.
- Reduce the need for shuttles by using off-site venues within walking distance, as long as you provide alternatives for attendees with mobility issues. This approach, however, "can blow up on you if the weather decides it is not your friend!" warned one respondent to a MeetingsNet survey on meeting cost-savings ideas. If you go this route, have umbrellas at hand (preferably branded or sponsored) in case the weather doesn't cooperate.

## **Tried-and-True Ground-Transportation Cost Cuts**

- Get multiple quotes from vendors and be specific about exactly what you will need, especially in terms of accessibility.
- Negotiate for the host hotel to provide complimentary town-car service for your speakers and VIPs.
- Get sponsors to underwrite the cost of shuttles in exchange for putting their branding on signage at the shuttle stops, the hotels along the route, the convention center or main meeting hotel, and on the shuttles themselves.
- Among the many services a convention and visitors bureau can provide is discounted rates with their transportation partners to various attractions in the destination. Talk with your host city's CVB to see what they can arrange for your group, from price discounts to airport greeters who can point people toward the right conference shuttle.

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**[zTrip®, the largest taxi fleet operator in the U.S., with operations in 26 cities, more than 2,700 vehicles and over 3,170 contracted drivers on its platform, to become publicly traded via business combination with Spree Acquisition Corp.](#)**

**Global Newswire - Oct. 31, 2022**

Kansas City, Missouri and Atlanta, Georgia, -- C Worldwide, LLC, doing business as zTrip®, a technology-based, North American-wide transportation company ("zTrip" or the "Company"), and Spree Acquisition Corp. 1 Limited (NYSE: SHAP, "Spree"), a special purpose acquisition company, today announced they have entered into a business combination agreement that would result in zTrip becoming publicly listed on the NYSE. Upon closing of the transaction, the combined company will be named WHC Worldwide, Inc. (continuing to do business as zTrip) and is expected to be listed on the NYSE under the ticker "ZTRP." The combined company will be led by zTrip's founder and CEO, Mr. Bill George.

zTrip was formed in January 2018 to develop a platform capable of operating local mobility service providers more effectively and efficiently. Since that time, its focus has been on building a national network of taxi operators and transportation service providers. Combining its experience of acquiring and operating traditional taxi fleets having completed 28 acquisitions of local operators to date, on a path towards establishing national scale with its proprietary technology-based shared infrastructure, zTrip aims to consolidate the local mobility service market and drive greater technology adoption and other operating efficiencies. zTrip is the largest taxi fleet operator in the U.S. (based on information provided by The Transportation Alliance), operating in 26 cities with more than 2,700 vehicles and over 3,170 contracted drivers on its platform. zTrip provides mobility services to approximately 1,080 corporate clients, providing a significant continuing revenue base, including in the following sub-sectors: student transportation; jobs training transfers; employment shuttles; airport transportation; conventions shuttles; large hospital networks; microtransit; local transportation authorities; and national Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) brokers.

zTrip's operational model is intended to be sustainable on a long-term basis, and to combine the favorable features of both traditional taxicabs and ride-hailing digital apps. The model aims to combine the safety, financial discipline and fare regulation of taxicabs, and the newer vehicles, mobile convenience, and frictionless payment model of Transportation Network Companies (TNC) players (like Uber and Lyft). In addition, zTrip believes it is differentiated by its operations in overlooked urban segments or cities not well served by its rivals.

Through its combination of the proven taxi service model with purpose-built technology, zTrip believes it has created a new hybrid brand of on-demand transportation. As reflected in its results to date, zTrip's business model has enabled the achievement of both solid financial results and growth while maintaining EBITDA profitability, which is based to a considerable extent on zTrip's continuing revenue base and consistent operational efficiencies. The Company believes that this financially-sound and tech-driven model is well-positioned to continue to disrupt and consolidate the U.S. transportation industry.

### **Key Investment Highlights**

- Largest taxi fleet operator in the U.S. (source: The Transportation Alliance), operating in 26 cities
- Data-driven business: zTrip combines its experience in operating traditional taxi fleets with its proprietary technology-based shared infrastructure

- Business model based on continuing and growing positive cash flow since its inception—a business from “the ground up”
- Focus on contracted rides channel, which the Company believes results in lower customer acquisition costs, contributing to better profitability and greater revenue visibility for both drivers and the Company
- Strong, consistent financial performance across economic cycles
- Growing market presence with strong financial performance to date, having generated revenues of approximately \$68.1 million in 2021<sup>1</sup>, \$56.7 million in 2020<sup>1</sup> and \$37.3 million in 2019<sup>1</sup>, representing 20% growth and 52% growth in 2021 and 2020, respectively, over the previous years, despite the headwinds caused by COVID-19 throughout the ground transportation industry
- EBITDA of approximately \$16 million, \$7 million and \$8 million, in years 2021, 2020 and 2019, respectively
- Notable acquisition track record with 28 transactions closed since 2018
- Path to national expansion: The Company believes that fast scale-up is possible via significant near-term growth opportunities, with more than 100 taxi-operator targets that have been identified and that meet zTrip’s criteria for market expansion
- Reliable leadership team with extensive industry experience, headed by Bill George, who has owned and operated taxicab companies dating back to 1985
- zTrip operates within the U.S. ride-hailing & taxi market, valued at \$61.9 billion in 2022 and estimated to reach \$74.5 billion by 2026, representing a CAGR of 4.7% over the forecasted period (Statista Research)
- zTrip’s zMetrics analytics platform optimizes its car fleet for efficiency and profitability, helping drivers to maximize their own incomes and providing updated benchmarking in real-time, including driver safety scores, vehicle maintenance costs, trip response times and driver efficiency rates, allowing general managers to focus on areas for improvement
- zTrip’s revenue sources include: (i) fees charged to drivers for operating on zTrip’s platform; (ii) fees charged to corporate clients for administering transportation services; (iii) fees charged to customers for services provided by zTrip’s employed drivers; and (iv) fees charged by zTrip to its SuperShuttle affiliates (which provide on-demand airport rides and additional ride services)

#### Highlights of the Proposed Transaction

- zTrip’s assumed equity value prior to the business combination is \$251 million
- Spree is required to provide gross proceeds (after transaction expenses) of at least \$50 million to zTrip
- The combined company that will result from the transaction will be organized in an “Up-C” tax structure; WHC Worldwide, Inc., a Delaware corporation to be formed based on the transfer and domestication of Spree, will be a publicly listed holding company, which will hold equity interests in WHC Worldwide, LLC (dba zTrip) and its subsidiaries, which, in turn, will hold and operate substantially all of the assets and business of zTrip
- The closing of the transaction is expected to occur during the first half of 2023.

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#### **BKK Testing Bank Card Solution for Airport Bus** Budapest Business Journal - Nov. 7, 2022

The Budapest Transportation Center is preparing for another step in digitalization. Together with Mastercard, Monet+, and K&H Bank, the company will test a technical solution that makes the use of public transport even faster and easier.

During the trial period, customers on the 100E airport bus line only need a physical or digitized bank card with a contactless payment function.

Validation will occur simultaneously with the transaction, and the customer's bank card will be suitable for verifying the travel entitlement later in case of a possible inspection.

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#### **Six Metro stations south of airport will reopen this weekend with Blue Line service** FFX Now - Oct. 24, 2022



The six Metro stations south of Reagan National Airport are [reopening this weekend](#) with Blue Line service replacing the Yellow Line service.

Braddock Rd, King St-Old Town, Eisenhower Ave, Huntington, Van Dorn St, and Franconia-Springfield stations will all reopen on Sunday (Nov. 6) after being closed for nearly two months. The stations were initially scheduled to reopen two weeks ago, on Oct. 23.

The closures were needed to connect the new Potomac Yard station to the main rail system, though that station's opening was also pushed back to next year.

When service restarts this weekend, the two Yellow Line-only stations will see some changes to their normal operations.

With rehab and construction still ongoing on the [Yellow Line bridge and tunnel](#), all trains coming and going from Huntington and Eisenhower will [run with Blue Line service](#) and be routed through Rosslyn. Trains will run every 15 minutes along the whole line, per [Metro](#).

This is scheduled to continue until at least May 2023, when it's expected the rehabilitation will be completed.

Most shuttle service at those stations will also stop starting Sunday, but Metro will continue to [provide limited-stop shuttles](#) that cross the Potomac during weekday rush hours. In addition, parking will no longer be free at the Van Dorn Street, Huntington, and Franconia stations.

The end of the station closures continue a week of good news for Metro.

On Halloween, the transit service announced that the long-awaited Silver Line Phase II is finally set to start service on Nov. 15. Then, Metro said that train service will increase over the next two months with the long-sidelined 7000-series trains getting back on the tracks.

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### [US Airports Switching To Electric Buses With Help From Federal Grants](#) CleanTechnica.com - Oct. 31, 2022

While we wait for electric airplanes and green aviation fuels to arrive, airports all across the United States are beginning to switch to [electric buses](#) to shuttle passengers from terminal to terminal and from parking lots to terminals and back. The amount of carbon emissions from diesel-powered buses at airports is a small part of the total carbon footprint of aviation — only about 1.7% — but the move to electric buses is increasing awareness of the emissions created by airport operations. Electric baggage-handling equipment, food service trucks, and tow vehicles will be next to experience the changeover.

According to [Canary Media](#), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the largest U.S. transportation agency, has awarded more than \$27 million this year to help a dozen airports purchase zero-emission buses, along with charging stations and equipment used to service planes at gates. That's on top of the more than \$300 million in grants it disbursed last year to electrify airport equipment.

"Electrifying airports is an important part of reaching net-zero emissions and addressing our climate crisis," Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg tells *Canary Media*. "This funding moves us closer to this goal while helping get passengers and their luggage where they need to go."

Electric airplanes and cleaner fuels are in the future, but electrifying transit vehicles is something the aviation industry can do immediately to reduce greenhouse gases. "Our largest effort to reduce emissions is to electrify our entire shuttle bus fleet," says Haley Gentry, CEO of Charlotte Douglas International Airport in North Carolina.

It is the world's sixth-busiest airport for passenger traffic and it is planning to retire its fleet of nearly 60 diesel shuttle buses and replace them with 50 electric models by the end of this decade. With the help of nearly \$10 million in FAA grants, 10 battery electric buses have been purchased, orders for 5 more have been placed, and 11 charging stations have been installed, Gentry says.

The electric fleet includes models from both U.S. manufacturer [Proterra](#), which made the vehicles in Greenville, South Carolina, and Canada's [New Flyer](#), which produced its buses at a facility in Anniston, Alabama. "We're figuring out what is a good fit for us through some trial and error," Gentry says. Buses that shuttle passengers from parking lots to airport terminals need to be able to lower their floor or entrance doors more than typical transit buses do so people can easily haul their luggage on and off. Some of the models seem better suited for use on city streets, Gentry says.

At around \$750,000 each, new electric buses cost twice as much as diesel versions. But airport officials say they expect to save money in the long term due to the lower costs of operating and maintaining the battery powered models. Gentry says the electric buses also offer a much quieter ride and are smoother in stop-and-go conditions. "Not to mention, of course, there's zero diesel fuel being burned," she adds.

Sacramento International Airport in California has 10 electric buses and 8 more on the way. Its current fleet of 35 buses runs on compressed natural gas — a fuel that produces fewer smog-related tailpipe emissions than diesel but is still primarily composed of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. While cleaner burning than diesel, it is also subject to wild swings in the price of the natural gas itself. Electricity rates tend to be far more stable. The airport received \$4.6 million in FAA grants last year to start making the switch.

The midsized airport chose Proterra to make its electric buses, a decision driven largely by the constraints of the airport's maintenance facility, said Bree Taylor, an airport planner for Sacramento County.

Some electric bus manufacturers, including New Flyer and BYD, place batteries on the roofs of vehicles, but the airport's maintenance facility isn't set up for mechanics to fix bus parts or retool battery systems at heights of nine feet above the ground. "We need a floor mounted battery," Taylor says. The airport also didn't want to bet on any fledgling vehicle makers with untested buses. Planners wanted to order models that were already in operation elsewhere.

The Proterra buses primarily recharge at a bus lot located near the airport's 7.9-megawatt solar farm. During the day, drivers can plug in the vehicles between runs to top off batteries with solar electricity — a practice known as "opportunity charging." The buses do most of their battery charging while parked for the night, however.

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### [Taxi vs. Ride-Share: Which Is Better for Your Wallet?](#)

**Yahoo! Finance** - Nov. 7, 2022

For the last 10 years, [ride-share services](#) like Uber and Lyft have made it easy for those on the move to quickly get a ride through their apps. The widespread use and availability of ride-shares have also meant many will opt for a ride-share over a taxi in places like airports, for example.

Are you really saving more money taking a ride-share over a taxi? [Let's look at some of the cost variables for riding and other considerations to factor in when choosing a car service.](#)

Here are a few cost variables you'll need to factor in to determine if you'll take a taxi or ride-share service.

**Location:** Depending on your location and the destination you need to get to, taxi or ride-share fares may be more or less expensive.

Let's use the example that you need to get to the airport. According to The Los Angeles Times, many cab companies will charge flat rates for airport trips. An example is Bell Cab charging \$38 for trips between West Hollywood and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

It's often easier to find both taxi and ride-share services in major cities like New York, but a bit more difficult for those who live in suburban areas. You may need to call ahead of time to schedule a taxi to pick you up or schedule a pick-up time on a ride-share app if you live in an area where there's less car availability.

**Distance and Miles Traveled:** A 2022 Lifewire article said taxis charge per mile when they are moving, but charge per minute while idling. Ride-share services like Uber charge per mile and per minute, with a few exceptions, whether the car is moving or idling.

**Traveling on Holidays:** Using a ride-share on holidays can be significantly more expensive than taking a taxi. Ride-shares will charge what is known as surge pricing: higher fares due to increased customer demand.

The good news is you can usually view a ride estimate on both Uber and Lyft's apps. If you find surge pricing is too expensive, consider switching to a competing app to see if prices have dropped or waiting a few minutes to see if prices decline. Those who have the number for a local authorized cab service — as a general pro tip, this is helpful to have handy when visiting another city — may decide to call for a cab. Taxis usually rely on fixed fare schedules, meaning passengers don't have to worry about surge pricing to get to their destination.

**Tips and Payment:** Both cab drivers and ride-share drivers do expect tips from passengers. Apps like Lyft and Uber provide passengers with the ability to pick a tip percentage or a custom percentage amount. The etiquette for tipping cab drivers is usually between 15% to 20%, according to AARP.

If you decide to take a cab, ask ahead of time whether they take credit cards or cash. Make sure to bring enough cash with you to cover the trip and tip. Ride-share apps like Uber and Lyft have your payment information on file, so there's generally no need to worry about making your payment at the end of the trip. Plus, ride-shares will email you a copy of your receipt to have on file breaking down the cost of the trip.

### **How Can I Save When Choosing a Car Service?**

You can save extra money if you decide to take a ride-share. Ride-shares usually have a range of cars available at different price points for passengers.

For example, Uber usually recommends UberX as its most economical choice. Uber Black and Uber Lux are also available as premium rides in luxury cars, but their price points are significantly more expensive. If you wanted to travel 15 miles in the Los Angeles area before 9 a.m., for example, taking an Uber Black would cost around \$74. This compares to a ride in Uber X which would price out to around \$33. Both Uber and Lyft also offer shared car options. These rides are affordable and allow several passengers to be picked up and taken to their destinations.

Ultimately, finding a cheaper ride-share or cab depends on the city you're in. Ride-shares are typically the most economical choice in most major U.S. cities. They can often be found at cheaper rates and are generally more plentiful than taxis. Ride-shares also allow passengers to see their driver's rating and car model to be sure they are riding in a safe vehicle. Passengers enjoy peace of mind in knowing their drivers have been vetted to prioritize an exceptional customer experience to and from their destination of choice.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- AZ [Private Car Service](#) is pleased to announce the addition of the all-new Mercedes 2023 Sprinter VIP Black Van to the existing and extensive lineup of Executive VIP vehicles. This new vehicle will provide more options for luxury transportation.

For over 20+ years, AZ Private Car Service has served Phoenix, Scottsdale, and surrounding areas and suburbs. AZ Private Car Service ~ Limousine Service is a fully licensed and certified transportation provider for (PHX) Phoenix International airport under federal clearance. All Vehicles are the latest NEW models and drivers are professional and courteous.

Serving the Phoenix and the surrounding area with a wide range of limo services including grad or prom limousine service, wedding limousine service, Airport Car Services, Limo Services, Private Functions, Black Car, Private Corporate Events, Specialty wedding limo services, Private Town Cars Can accommodate groups of 1 to 50+ passengers (PHX) airport limousine.

AZ Private Car Service has an expansive luxury fleet to accommodate any request. The fleet includes sedans, SUVs, stretch limousines, SUV limousines, passenger vans, and more.

In addition to airport, golf, and shopping transportation, AZ Private Car Service can also provide the following:

- Roadshows
- Conferences
- Corporate Events and Parties
- Corporate Retreats
- Corporate Location Scouting
- Business Development Meetings
- Political Events
- Conventions
- Film and Television Events
- Manufacturing Tours
- Airport Transportation
- Private event
- Phoenix, Scottsdale & Grand Canyon Tours
- Concerts, theaters and sporting event transportation, and much more

Business and corporate travelers rate AZ Private Car Service #1 for airport limousine service in the Phoenix and Scottsdale area.

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### [Abu Dhabi Airports announce electric flying taxi to take passengers home](#)

**Arabian Business** - Nov. 8, 2022

In the near future, commuters will be able to fly in from international destinations to Abu Dhabi International Airport, and then take [a flying electric taxi](#) home.

With the objective of deploying a new concept of air transportation that uses electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft to move people and cargo, Abu Dhabi Airports has signed a memorandum of understanding with leading French firm Groupe ADP to explore its potential.

Abu Dhabi Airports and Groupe ADP will engage in the joint planning, design, development, and operation of ground infrastructure for Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) in Abu Dhabi, following engagement with stakeholders, a feasibility study and market assessment to develop the roadmap.

Jamal Salem Al Dhaheri, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Abu Dhabi Airports said: "We are excited to partner with industry-leading Groupe ADP to explore the potential of introducing AAM to Abu Dhabi. This new system integrates flight technologies with transformational aircraft designs which utilise electric power to hover, take off, and land vertically, enabling sustainability in air transport for both passengers and cargo.

Groupe ADP is one of few airport operators to be present in all aspects of the airport value chain – from upstream studies in engineering, master planning and design, to the commissioning and operation of complex infrastructure (terminals, runways, baggage sorting, etc.).

The company develops, operates and develops the three main [Paris airports](#) under the Paris Aéroport banner – Paris-Charles de Gaulle, Paris-Orly and Paris-Le Bourget, as well as some ten civil aviation aerodromes in the Paris region. It is active in 125 airports in 50 countries worldwide and operates, directly or indirectly, a network of 29 airports worldwide in 2021.

Philippe Martinet, Managing Director of Groupe ADP Airport Services, added: “We are proud to enter this partnership with Abu Dhabi Airports to collaborate on building the AAM roadmap and accelerating the development of the necessary infrastructure in Abu Dhabi.

“With our hands-on experience in the Paris region today, and our deep understanding of the industry, its infrastructure and operational challenges, we will be supporting Abu Dhabi Airports in laying the ground for AAM service implementation in Abu Dhabi.”

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### [Blue Apple Bus Company begins service between Mansfield MBTA Station and Logan Airport](#)

**Mass Transit - Nov. 7, 2022**

Blue Apple Bus Company began daily bus service from the Mansfield MBTA Station to Logan Airport in Boston on Saturday, Nov. 5.

John Cogliano, president and CEO of Blue Apple Bus Company, said the new bus service between the Mansfield MBTA Station to Logan Airport will provide a reliable transportation option that is cost effective for the public.

“The Blue Apple bus service will start with 10 daily round trips of bus service from Mansfield to Logan Airport from 3 a.m. to 9 p.m. and from Logan Airport to Mansfield from 4:45 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. In addition, this new daily bus service will increase over the next several months to hourly bus service from Mansfield to Logan Airport. The Blue Apple Bus service from Mansfield to Logan Airport is a game-changer for people living along the Route 95 Corridor,” Cogliano said. “This new daily bus service from Mansfield to Logan Airport is a public-private partnership that only could have happened with the support of the Town of Mansfield, GATRA, MassDOT, MBTA, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Congressman Stephen Lynch, U.S. Congressman Jake Auchincloss, State Rep. Jay Barrows and State Sen. Paul Feeney all working together.”

“This new bus service to Logan Airport from Mansfield will benefit not only the residents and businesses of Mansfield, Foxboro and Norton, but people across the surrounding communities. This airport bus service is long overdue and provides financial relief to the public from the high gas prices,” said State Rep. Jay Barrows (R-Mansfield).

“The launch of the Blue Apple bus service is a big win for our region. Bus shuttle service from the Mansfield MBTA Station to Logan Airport provides a critical missing link that will support economic development, more efficient transportation to and from Boston and an added level of comfort to residents in our area,” said State Sen. Paul Feeney (D-Foxborough).

“Before the launch of the Blue Apple bus service, there had been no easy way to get to Logan Airport from Mansfield or the surrounding towns. This new fixed line service will greatly benefit residents by providing a convenient way to get to the airport that does not require line changes or the use of expensive ride share apps,” said State Rep. Ted Philips (D-Sharon).

“The Town of Mansfield recognizes that an enhanced transportation system provides economic and quality of life benefits to the residents and businesses in Mansfield,” said Kevin Dumas, town manager of Mansfield.

“This new bus service from Mansfield to Logan Airport improves transportation connectivity for the region and will help reduce traffic congestion,” said Mary Ellen DeFrias, administrator, Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority.

“Traveling on a Blue Apple bus to Logan Airport is a safer, greener and more cost-effective way to travel to your destination. Every Blue Apple bus can take up to 55 cars off the road, which reduces local traffic congestion, reduces overall gas consumption and truly benefits the environment,” Cogliano said.

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### [Silver Line gives Metro, Dulles Airport optimism for new passengers](#)

The black tape covering signs at Dulles International Airport that point to its new Metro station were removed this week as workers complete their final tasks to open the long-awaited Silver Line extension in less than two weeks.

A giant banner heralding the train stop was placed in a well-traveled spot that passengers will see as they walk between the Metro station and airport terminals: “No bus, no fuss, single train service between Dulles International Airport and Washington D.C.,” it said. “Welcome aboard.”

Officials with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, which operates Dulles and oversaw construction of the \$3 billion extension, and Metro, the agency that will operate the Silver Line, provided a tour Wednesday of the 11.5-mile extension through Northern Virginia. It will begin carrying customers Nov. 15, a milestone decades in the making that is four years overdue. The tour came one day after the transit agency’s first full day of increased fare evasion enforcement, which brought five citations after years of Metro mostly ignoring the offense.

Metro and the airports authority see the Silver Line as a significant boost for regional rail and air travel, which have faced pandemic-related problems and staffing shortages. While airline passenger counts have mostly rebounded as [some carriers report record revenue](#), transit agencies like Metro have lost thousands of fare-paying passengers amid a shift to telework. Metro leaders hope their rebound will follow, pinning hopes on the Silver Line and returning more suspended rail cars.

“This has been a generational dream long before I certainly was here at this role,” Metro General Manager Randy Clarke said Wednesday, about three months into his post, “and we just really look forward to welcoming people.”

Clarke said he expects steady passenger growth on Metrorail from residents moving into apartment towers and condominium complexes along the tech corridor, and didn’t voice concern that remote work policies could dampen usage of a rail line constructed with expectations of trains filled with office workers commuting five days a week. Commuters who are part of shifting travel patterns that have emerged since the pandemic will still rely on Metro, Clarke said.

John E. “Jack” Potter, airports authority chief executive, said Dulles expects “strong” usage of “several thousand” passengers a day through the Metro station, which is a five-minute walk to baggage claim via an underground corridor.

During a ride from Ashburn to Dulles, trees with red, yellow and green leaves on undeveloped land stood next to massive technology warehouses and office complexes. The train platform at the Dulles station provided a clear view of the airport terminal while the indoor walkway between the terminal and station had new signs pointing passengers toward baggage claim. A Metro video announcing the Silver Line’s opening date played repeatedly on a television screen.

In baggage claim, Sophia Sevilla, 20, of Baltimore, who had just returned from Miami, said she wasn’t aware of the new station opening soon but said it would be a welcome amenity.

“It would be really convenient because a lot of people don’t want to waste like \$50 on an Uber and gas is super expensive,” she said.

The transit agency estimates it is losing more than \$40 million a year in direct fare revenue, while also worrying that frequent evasion offenses are driving fare-paying passengers away. Past enforcement tactics have come under criticism by some Black residents in the District, who say police were targeting stations disproportionately used by Black passengers, making unnecessary stops and using excessive force for minor incidents. In 2018, the D.C. Council decriminalized the offense, making it punishable only through fines.

While enforcement continued in Maryland and Virginia, the number of citations issued in the two states fell precipitously in recent years.

Of the five citations issued Tuesday, four were in Arlington’s Pentagon City neighborhood and one was at the Morgan Boulevard station in Prince George’s County. Officers also issued 18 warnings, Metro spokeswoman Sherri Ly said. Clarke has said transit police are not aiming to issue tickets, but to warn and inform violators.

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## [Truck stolen from Sacramento airport parking lot serves as security reminder for holiday travelers](#)

KCRA.com - Nov. 4, 2022

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Jace Tiller's truck, a 1999 Ford F-250 XLT Super Duty, has been some places and it's seen some things since his dad bought it brand new off the lot in 2000.

"We used to take fishing trips, boating trips. It was the main vehicle for the family for 20-plus years," Tiller said.

A second-generation construction worker, the truck is now in his name.

"As I got older and started following his footsteps in construction, I wanted to take that vehicle and make it my own," explained Tiller.

After a flight last weekend, however, the pickup is no longer in his hands.

"I came back on the first of November to find my vehicle not there," Tiller said.

He said his truck had been stolen from the Sacramento Airport's West Economy Lot.

Tiller told KCRA 3 that an officer who came to take the report of his stolen truck said there aren't any cameras surveilling that particular lot.

The sheriff's office wasn't immediately able to provide exact numbers of recent airport vehicle thefts to KCRA 3, but said crime, overall, is up.

"When people go on vacation, and they pay for parking and their car to be secure, they expect cameras to be on their car or security patrolling the lot," Tiller said.

Sacramento International Airport told KCRA 3, the airport's parking areas are regularly patrolled by airport security and Sacramento County sheriff's deputies and that there is no single lot that airport staff would consider to be "unsafe."

Meanwhile, Tiller hopes someone saw his truck leaving the airport lot, but he said he realizes that if it's found, it probably won't be the same.

"I know, unfortunately, if I find it, it's probably gonna be stripped down," Tiller said. "It was a nice truck that had a lot of great parts on it."

The airport always recommends that travelers parking at the airport take the following steps for security:

- Lock all vehicle doors.
- Don't leave valuables inside a car or trunk.
- Immediately report theft vehicles to the sheriff's office.

The airport also said it's good to check real-time parking capacity information prior to arriving at the airport. The information [found at this link](#) can assist travelers to avoid having to rush to flights before securing vehicles.

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## [Lyft is cutting 13% of staff to cope with 'tough reality'](#)

Crain's New York Business - Nov. 3, 2022

Lyft said it will cut 13% of its staff as it tries to cope with a difficult economic backdrop, according to a memo to employees viewed by Bloomberg.

The cuts amount to about 685 employees, the company said in a filing. Based in San Francisco, the ride-hailing company said it also will divest its first-party vehicle service business, and it expects workers in that division will be offered positions by the buyer.

Lyft on Thursday was preparing to report third-quarter results Monday. It already has said it will [freeze hiring in the U.S.](#) at least until next year to rein in costs and maintain profitability. It's now confronting a squeeze on consumer spending from high inflation and a rockier global outlook that has pummeled tech stocks.

"We are not immune to the realities of inflation and a slowing economy," Lyft co-founders John Zimmer and Logan Green said in the memo. "We need 2023 to be a period where we can better execute without having to change plans in response to external events—and the tough reality is that today's actions set us up to do that."

In a filing, Lyft said it was maintaining previously issued guidance on third-quarter revenue, contribution margin and adjusted earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortization. It had forecast revenue of \$1.04 billion to \$1.06 billion and Ebitda of \$55 million to \$65 million for the quarter.

Lyft said it is maintaining its 2024 financial targets: \$1 billion in adjusted Ebitda with more than \$700 million in free cash flow.

The cuts were reported earlier by Dow Jones.

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### [How to avoid surprise rental car charges](#)

**The Washington Post** - Nov. 9, 2022

Brad Cross expected to pay just \$350 for a Honda Accord he rented in June for four days from Avis in Salt Lake City. Instead, the car rental company broadsided him with a surprise \$2,974 charge to his credit card.

"Avis said the rental was extended into a one-way rental and dropped in another state," says Cross, a software developer from Maple Grove, Minn. "But that wasn't me."

The charge, it turns out, was a mistake (more on that later), but customers are being hit with more "surprise" rental car charges these days — some intentional, some not.

Gone are the times of simple, transparent charges. Hidden fees — also known as junk fees — recently drew the ire of President Biden, who has [promised to crack down](#) on them in travel and beyond.

But there are ways to avoid these higher charges. Whether it's an erroneous bill like Cross's or a smaller unexpected fee, here are a few tricks.

Car rental fees are up 14 percent this year, [according to J.D. Power](#). The charges include fees to offset the cost of renting at an airport and extras for fuel and insurance. Here are the most common charges.

**Additional driver fees:** If there's more than one driver, your car rental company may charge extra. The company may waive the fee if it's your spouse or if you're a frequent renter.

**Fuel purchase options:** Car rental companies will offer to fill up the tank at a premium, so you can avoid having to refill before returning the vehicle. You can avoid this fee by filling the tank on your own. Also note that rental companies don't refund you for unused fuel.

**Insurance:** Agents at the counter will try to upsell customers on insurance. And it's a hard sell. They may tell you that your auto insurance policy isn't enough or that your credit card won't cover you — both usually untrue. The extra insurance can sometimes double the cost of your rental. To avoid this upsell, read your cardmember agreement or auto insurance policy to make sure you have coverage.

**Junk fees:** These can include airport concession fees (which cover fees the company pays for operating at the airport), license recovery fees (which cover the cost of a car's license and

registration) and even a tire disposal fee. You can't negotiate these fees off your bill, but they're usually disclosed before your rental, so you can avoid locations that charge them.

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**[ZOOZ Power join forces with global car rental giant to test kinetic power-boosted ultra-fast EV charging system](#)**

**Yahoo! Finance** - Nov. 9, 2022

TEL AVIV, Israel, -- ZOOZ Power (formerly Chakratec), (TASE: ZOOZ) announces it has signed a binding memorandum of understanding for collaboration with a worldwide leading car rental services provider, which is operating thousands of car rental sites in over 100 countries. The purpose of the collaboration is to build and operate a joint pilot of EV ultra-fast charging infrastructure which will demonstrate ZOOZ Power's solution based on the ZOOZTER-100 and its ability to enable and support ultra-fast charging of electric vehicles in sites where the electric grid is power-constrained. The site that was chosen for this special project is at LaGuardia Airport in New York City, USA.

To progress with the EV transition and the electrification of its rental car fleet, the car rental service provider is in need to build ultra-fast charging infrastructure, which is required to assure high quality of service to its customers and efficient operation of the sites. At many of the car rental sites, substantial grid constraints inhibit or delay the installation of ultra-fast EV charging infrastructure. Thus, the Pilot is part of the car rental service provider's efforts to seek solutions for these challenges, enabling to accelerate the implementation of its strategy to provide EV rental services. The goal is to have the pilot site operational during Q2/2023 for a period of 12 months. Based on successful pilot, the parties will discuss a roadmap and agreement for a long-term cooperation, using ZOOZ Power's products in additional sites.

According to Boaz Weizer, ZOOZ Power's CEO: "The electric vehicles' revolution introduces dramatic changes to how car rental sites operate and the infrastructures they utilize. Car rental service providers are in need of ultra-fast charging infrastructure in their sites, but the build of such infrastructure is challenged and /or delayed due to power-constrained grid, and that is precisely the gap that we address and provide with a solution. We are excited to collaborate with one of the global giants of the car rental industry, to prove the uniqueness and significant added value that our solution provides this use case. This is a fourth significant pilot we are part of in the US, following the planned pilots with Blink Charging and ARKO convenience store chain, and only two months after we have announced another Pilot with the New York Power Authority. We are collaborating with reputable large-scale companies, throughout the US, which understand the need for ultra-fast charging of electric vehicles, further serving as the industry's global trailblazer. These four pilots will be operational within a few months, and I believe they will accelerate our penetration into the US market and further feed ZOOZ's growth."

## AIRPORT NEWS

**[New wind turbine pilot project launched on BTV parking garage roof](#)**

**WCAX.com** - Nov. 2, 2022

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. - The Burlington International Airport parking garage isn't just for cars anymore, it's now part of the city's renewable energy transformation.

An eight-foot, first-of-its-kind wind turbine on the garage roof is part of a new pilot project spearheaded by Burlington Electric. "A new cutting-edge wind energy technology that is going to be demonstrated right here on this rooftop," said the utility's Darren Springer, who along with city officials Wednesday unveiled the latest edition to the city's renewable energy portfolio - The Orb.

"What the Orb represents for us is a new commercial scale technology that can work on rooftops, as opposed to the wind we think of," Springer said.

[The project is a collaboration between Massachusetts-based Arc Industries](#) and Burlington Electric. "Tackling climate change -- that is my and my company's biggest push," said Arc CEO Rob Monteith. He says the Orbs can help in Burlington's push to become a net zero city by 2030 by

deploying them on commercial rooftops where solar panels can't go. "Especially the ones that already have solar on them, don't have the space to increase their energy output -- this solves that."

A single orb creates enough energy to power about one home annually or as much electricity as about 25 of the solar panels on the parking garage roof. Each of the units currently costs about \$20,000. They hope to cut that price in half over the next year. Monteith says the key is to have renewables that overlap. "What's great about renewables is that though they are variable, they tend to be complimentary in nature," he said.

"One hundred percent of our energy from renewables -- even as we have been pushing aggressively to expand the electricity consumption in Burlington," said Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger. He says this kind of technology will be needed to meet increased electricity demands from evs and electricity for heating and cooling. "The way we confront climate change is through fiscally responsible, innovative, and aggressive tactics that engage every part of our city government, our diverse business community, renters, homeowners, and visitors."

The pilot project, which will not cost the city, will last one year. Then, BED will have to decide whether to buy this or other orbs. A decision that city officials say will come down to cost.

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### [San Antonio International Airport Offers Reserved Parking for Busy Thanksgiving Travel Season](#)

**City of San Antonio** - Nov. 8, 2022

San Antonio – San Antonio International Airport (SAT) is preparing for the expected increase in travelers over the Thanksgiving break by offering additional parking options. Travelers can beat the rush by reserving a parking spot online with the airport's valet service, Fly Away Valet.

The reserved valet option provides:

- A 10% discount for reservations booked between Nov. 20-26, 2022, for a limited time
- Guaranteed parking, starting at \$33.00 a day
- 24-hour service
- Spots available in the Short-Term Parking Garage

"Using Fly Away Valet is a great way to have peace of mind that you'll find close parking," said Jesus H. Saenz, Director of Airports, San Antonio Airport System. "It's easy and cuts time when you're in a rush. We're expecting big crowds as usual and it's the perfect solution for anyone who is worried about being delayed."

Active duty and reserve military personnel receive a 10% discount from the regular rates.

Some of the benefits of Fly Away Valet include:

- Convenient and closest parking to the terminals
- Secured and covered storage of vehicles
- Luggage assistance
- Bottled water
- Complimentary front window cleaning and front interior vacuuming
- Contactless transaction – ticketless and credit card only accepted
- Remote mobile payment option

The airport's Short-Term Parking Garage will be used temporarily for reserved parking to accommodate the increase of travelers during the holidays.

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### [Syracuse Airport to add 2,000 new parking spots with construction on garages to begin 2023](#)

**CNYCentral.com** - Nov. 4, 2022

SYRACUSE N.Y. — Anyone traveling by plane this holiday season is going to benefit from [hundreds of new parking spots](#) at the Syracuse Hancock International Airport.

Some neighbors may remember February 2022 break when the airport had to alert the community that there were [no more parking spaces](#) available. [By spring break](#), they had opened up 470 additional spots.

All of this signals the need for more parking, and that's what airport leaders are going to deliver. The first step is the addition of 900 new parking spots by this holiday travel season.

About 500 of those spots will be for travelers to park while they travel, and the rest will be for employees and an expanded pick-up/drop-off area for travelers.

The next step will be a longer-term solution that opens up another 11,000 spots. This will mean two new parking garages and the demolition of the current garage. Covered parking spots are practically a must-have for Central New York winters.

"Under the new proposed parking decks, it's going to be two units that are five tiers with the top tier, we're hoping to include some kind of solar canopy or some kind of cover on that top tier," said Syracuse Airport Chief Commercial Officer Jason Mehl.

"Part of our landslide project that we are actually incorporating as well as to improve the passenger experience is a canopy that covers the entire walkway from our two proposed parking garages to the terminal," said Mehl.

Construction for the new and improved parking garages should begin in 2023, but it is currently unclear when the garages will open.

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### [Louis Armstrong Airport Launches New Parking Amenities](#)

**Biz New Orleans** - Nov. 4, 2022

NEW ORLEANS (press release) – With the holiday travel season approaching, the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) announced new amenities to make parking at MSY more convenient. Customers can now take advantage of online parking reservations in any of the Airport's four parking facilities and a new valet parking option with drop-off conveniently located on the departures curb. Additionally, MSY parking operators now guarantee that the shuttle ride from the Park MSY Express Economy Garage to the terminal will be 15 minutes or less, or customers will receive a 50 percent discount on their parking stay.

"Since the pandemic, the demand for parking at Airports across the country has been outpacing the return of passengers," said Kevin Dolliole, Director of Aviation for MSY. "We have over 8,000 spaces available in our parking facilities to meet our customers' needs, and these new features will make for an even more convenient experience so they can park their vehicles and get to their flights as easily as possible."

#### **Online Parking Reservations**

Passengers can ensure a space will be available in the parking facility of their choice by reserving a spot ahead of time at [park.flymsy.com](http://park.flymsy.com). On the site, customers can set their entry and exit dates, choose their preferred parking facility (Short Term, Long Term, Surface Lot or Economy), and enter their contact and payment information. Taxes and a \$2 convenience fee are included in every price on the site.

Once the booking is complete, customers will receive a confirmation email with an easy-to-use QR code, which they will scan to enter and exit the parking lots—no ticket needed. Once a reservation is made, it cannot be canceled.

#### **Valet Parking**

Valet Parking is a convenient option for passengers looking to save some extra time. It is available daily from 6 a.m. until midnight for \$36 per day on a first-come, first-served basis. The [Valet Drop-Off Area](#) is located on the departures curb near the United Airlines entrance.

To use the new valet service, passengers will pull their vehicle up to the designated valet stand. Here, the passenger will provide their name, phone number and flight information before handing off keys to the attendant. They will receive a confirmation text message, and passengers can

request their vehicle by texting the attendant upon arrival. The [Valet Pick-Up Area](#) is located on level 1 (Baggage Claim) near the walkway to the Short Term Parking Garage.

### **15-Minute Shuttle Guarantee**

The remote Park MSY Express Economy Garage offers a convenient shuttle service. Now, the shuttle ride from the Economy Garage to the terminal is guaranteed to be 15 minutes or less, otherwise, passengers will receive a voucher for 50 percent off of parking.

The voucher must be used upon exiting the garage and is not valid at any other Airport parking facility or subsequent parking visit. It may only be used in one single transaction.

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### **[DOL Seeks Public Comments for Employee Classification Changes](#)**

**Chauffeur Driven** - Nov. 1, 2022

The US Department of Labor recently published a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) to help employers and workers determine whether a worker is an employee or an independent contractor under the [Fair Labor Standards Act](#). The changes were proposed to combat misclassification, which the DOL has identified as a continued problem, and is currently seeking comments from the public to be submitted no later than November 28, 2022.

DOL says it proposed a framework more consistent with longstanding judicial precedent on which employers have relied to classify workers as employees or independent contractors under the FLSA. The department believes the new rule would preserve essential worker rights and provide consistency for regulated entities.

“While independent contractors have an important role in our economy, we have seen in many cases that employers misclassify their employees as independent contractors, particularly among our nation’s most vulnerable workers,” said Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh. “Misclassification deprives workers of their federal labor protections, including their right to be paid their full, legally earned wages. The Department of Labor remains committed to addressing the issue of misclassification.”

The proposed rule would do the following:

- Align the department’s approach with courts’ FLSA interpretation and the economic reality test.
- Restore the multifactor, totality-of-the-circumstances analysis to determine whether a worker is an employee or an independent contractor under the FLSA.
- Ensure that all factors are analyzed without assigning a predetermined weight to a particular factor or set of factors.
- Revert to the longstanding interpretation of the economic reality factors. These factors include the investment, control and opportunity for profit or loss factors. The integral factor, which considers whether the work is integral to the employer’s business, is also included.
- Assist with the proper classification of employees and independent contractors under the FLSA.
- Rescind the 2021 Independent Contractor Rule.

The department is responsible for ensuring that employers do not misclassify FLSA-covered workers as independent contractors and deprive them of their legal wage and hour protections. Misclassification denies basic worker protections such as minimum wage and overtime pay and affects a wide range of workers in the home care, janitorial services, trucking, delivery, construction, personal services, and hospitality and restaurant industries, among others.

The department’s Wage and Hour Division considered feedback shared by stakeholders in forums during the summer of 2022 and will now solicit comments on the proposed rule from interested parties, which are due no later than Nov. 28, 2022. Comments [should be submitted online](#) or in writing to the Division of Regulations, Legislation and Interpretation, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-3502, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20210.

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### **[Boeing urges air taxi safety standards be as strict as for commercial jets](#)**

**Yahoo! Finance** - Nov. 8, 2022

MONTREAL - Boeing Co urged regulators on Tuesday to subject a new generation of air taxis to the same strict safety standards as commercial passenger planes, saying aircraft designed to make short flights on demand should not be judged on a par with small private planes.

Boeing Chief Strategy Officer Marc Allen's address at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal was the first time the U.S. planemaker has spoken publicly about the matter.

"We have to unify around the importance of bringing all advanced air mobility vehicles and operating systems to market with airliner levels of safety, with air transport levels of safety, with commercial levels of safety," he said at ICAO's Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) Symposium.

"There is of course significant risk that in an event involving any one of these vehicles that the whole category of advanced air mobility will be subject to penalty."

Regulators are coming up with design and operational requirements for air taxis, which can take off and land vertically to ferry travelers to airports or on short trips between cities, allowing them to beat traffic.

Allen said regulators must approach advanced air mobility on safety in the same manner as commercial transport if air taxis are to fly over crowded, urban areas. But he added that some air taxis are being lumped into categories such as general aviation where smaller aircraft have different stringencies than larger jetliners.

Small planes "are not an everyday flight solution for broad mobility," he told Reuters on the sidelines of the event. "They are not in heavy, dense usage over urban populations."

On Monday, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued the airworthiness criteria that Joby Aviation will need to meet for its air taxi aircraft.

Allen said regulators, including the FAA, would ideally come up with common requirements for certifying these aircraft, but acknowledged that would take time. "To us, the more important thing is consensus on commercial safety standards," he said.

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### **[Plan for Biggest US Airport Solar Energy Farm Expected to Land Soon at KCI](#)**

**[FlatlandKC.org - Oct. 25, 2022](#)**

Big news about an unprecedented municipal solar farm investment at Kansas City International Airport that would make national headlines – and surprise and delight Kansas Citians – is expected in early 2023.

Kansas City City Manager Brian Platt said that the city's [request for proposals](#) for the construction of a swath of solar panels adjacent to KCI runways will close on Jan. 25, 2023. A developer for the undertaking will be identified shortly thereafter.

"We think it's the largest airport solar array and municipally owned solar array," Platt told Flatland in an exclusive interview, adding that "we will figure the structure throughout 2023."

"We have to be big and bold and aggressive with our solutions," Platt said.

The project is expected to elevate Kansas City to the top of the list for companies – particularly high tech, social media and information services companies – looking for locations to open facilities in sustainability focused regions to help attract a young, idealistic workforce.

The solar farm news is expected to break just as the city gets ready to cut the ribbon on its spanking new \$1.5 billion terminal at KCI early next year.

A huge solar development at KCI would help address climate change, he said.

It would have the added plus of insulating Kansas City residents from power disruptions caused by far-off weather disasters such as the Texas freeze blackouts of early February 2021, which caused power disruptions locally.

One year ago this week, Flatland was the first news outlet to report Platt's plan to have the city develop a solar farm generating 300 megawatts on 2,000 acres at KCI.

Studies and huddles with energy experts since then have encouraged the city to boost its solar ambitions to 500 megawatts on 3,100 acres at KCI. To get a sense of the scale, that is more than three-quarters of the size of Prairie Village, Kansas.

That 500 megawatts would power about 70,000 homes, or roughly one-third of Kansas City. Platt called it “an astronomical amount of green energy.”

The development is likely to proceed on two tracks.

Initially, a relatively small scale amount of solar will be developed as “proof of concept” to help develop city energy expertise and fine tune plans for a more extensive track two. The first phase will be a smaller, community scale solar project built to the south and west of the airport and its runways.

The second track will entail building out the balance of the 500 megawatts and could take a decade, Platt said.

Economically, Platt said, “it could theoretically be paid for by itself.” That means the money generated by the sale of the power generated from the sun would pay for the investment required to get the solar equipment installed, up and running.