

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 28, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing in support of Harry Reid Las Vegas International Airport's (LAS) application to the Airport Terminal Grant Program created in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. In 2022, LAS Airport was ranked among the top 10 busiest airports in the world, and it serves millions of travelers coming to Las Vegas. The airport's baggage handling system (BHS) has reached its useful life and needs to be upgraded throughout Terminal 1 and Terminal 3. This project will elevate the travel experience for all passengers by enhancing the capacity, security, reliability, energy efficiency and sustainability of the system.

The Baggage Handling System Improvement project has two integrated elements that include improving both the inbound baggage handling system at Terminal 1 and the baggage control system at Terminal 3. At Terminal 1, the project will replace and upgrade eight of the 16 baggage carousels with larger and more modern units. The aged inbound system conveyors and bag claim devices have been in continuous service for 40 years. At Terminal 3, the project will completely upgrade the control system components to match the system installed at Terminal 1 ensuring efficiency and reliability across the airport.

This project has several benefits for passengers and overall airport operations. First, modernizing the baggage carousels will allow baggage to be distributed between carousels resulting in less passenger density and improved access for passengers with disabilities. Second, capacity for the inbound system will increase by 20% given the new belts, new security control systems, scanner technologies, and re-routing of bags when there are issues. Also, energy savings will range from 45% to 55% by converting the outbound baggage system at Terminal 3 to an energy efficient on-demand system that only operates when baggage is present. Fourth, system security and reliability will be increased due to replacement of outdated technology software and hardware at Terminal 3, which reached its end-of-life date in 2019. Finally, in addition to enhancing airport operations and the traveler experience, replacing the BHS and control system will help to support local jobs. The construction phase of the project will create approximately 80 skilled trade, construction, and technology jobs over the course of 33 months.

Thank you for your consideration of LAS's application to the Airport Terminal Program, which will address LAS's important aging infrastructure needs. This critical project will replace those parts of LAS's baggage handling system that have reached and exceeded their useful life and are not adequately serving both airport staff and customers. Given the specific importance of quality air service for our large Western state that fundamentally relies on airport operations to move our economy, please give their application full and fair consideration. If you have any questions, please contact our staffs.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate



Jacky Rosen
United States Senate



Dina Titus
United States House of Representatives



Steven Horsford
United States House of Representatives



Susie Lee
United States House of Representatives