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Cleveland Hopkins prepares for a busy Thanksgiving travel rush

CLEVELAND, November 23, 2009 — Thanksgiving is a peak time for travel and Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) expects to see thousands more passengers than on a typical travel day. That is why airport officials are offering travel tips for a smooth flight from CLE.

“We want our passengers to start their Thanksgiving holiday off right,” said Airport Director Ricky Smith. “We want to provide our traveling public valuable travel knowledge so when they arrive to the airport, their Thanksgiving will have started on the right foot.”

This week is typically the busiest of the year for airports across the country, including CLE. Travel is expected to be heaviest on Tuesday, Nov. 24th, Wednesday, Nov. 25th and Sunday, Nov. 29th. Passengers should expect longer lines at the ticket counters and the three CLE Security Checkpoints – A, B and C. Travelers should arrive at least 2 hours before your scheduled departure to allow time for parking, checking in and going through the checkpoints.

For families, travelers with special needs or travelers somewhat unfamiliar with airport security procedures can now use the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Family lanes, which are designed to improve passenger flow. The Family lanes can also be used by individuals carrying necessary liquid medications in excess of three (3) ounces will be able to use the these lanes where they will undergo additional screening.

CLE is now offering a 50 percent discount for parking in both the hourly/daily and long-term garages **only** through January 15th. CLE parking is fast, easy, convenient and more importantly on-site. Visit the airport’s Web site at www.clevelandairport.com and click on the Holiday Garage Special to download your parking coupon.

For more helpful travel tips, airport officials recommend the following:

- Travelers have five separate on-site parking options, including:
 - Curbside Valet \$18 per day, located on the upper roadway near the Delta Air Lines and US Airways ticket counters
 - The hourly/daily garage \$14 per day
 - Long-term parking garage \$10 per day
 - The economy shuttle parking lot \$7 per day
 - The new economy parking lot for \$8 a day located next to the long-term parking garage.

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- Picking up friends or family at the airport? Park free for less than 30 minutes in the CLE Hourly Garage. After 30 minutes, the parking fee is as follows:
 - 0 – 30 minutes: **FREE**
 - 31 minutes to one hour: \$3
 - Each additional hour: \$3
 - Daily maximum/lost ticket fee: \$14
- Build in extra travel time to avoid delays.
- Before sure to look through your luggage to ensure no prohibited items are in the bag.
- Consider using your airline's Web site to do advance check-in to print your boarding pass up to 24-hours before departure. Even travelers with bags to check can save valuable time by checking-in on-line as many airlines have separate check your bag only lines that are quicker than the regular check-in lines.
- Before leaving home, contact the airline to check the status of the flight, or visit the airport's Web site at www.clevelandairport.com and click on the "flight information" link.
- Check traffic and weather conditions before leaving home, as these conditions can add to travel time to the airport.
- Always have a government-issue ID ready to present at the airline ticket counter and security checkpoint.
- Remember the TSA 3-1-1 rule for carry-on items – Three ounces (3 oz.) per container, in a clear one-quart bag, one per passenger.
- Knives, scissors with pointed tips, pepper spray and other such items are prohibited as carry-on items. For a comprehensive list of banned and permitted items, visit the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Web site at www.tsa.gov.
- Carry-on luggage is restricted to one bag and one personal item per person. A personal item includes a purse, briefcase, or laptop bag. Keep in mind that most airlines now charge at least \$15 for the first bag for each passenger and more for additional bags.

For more airport information, call (216) 265-6030 or visit the airport's Web site at www.clevelandairport.com.