



Issue 16 | May 2025

## CLE Heads into 100 Days of Summer

As Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) approaches the busy summer travel season, here is some important info for travelers to know during the '100 days of summer':

During the '100 days of summer,' which begin Memorial Day week and extends through Labor Day, CLE is expecting more than 3.3 million travelers, about the same as last summer.

For the holiday weekend from Friday to Monday, CLE expects 128,000 passengers through our terminal.

To accommodate the busy early morning flights, TSA will open North Checkpoint at 4:15 a.m., Central Checkpoint at 3:45 a.m. and South Checkpoint at 3:15 a.m., however the airport cannot stress enough how important it is to arrive early, especially during peak hours of the day: 4-6 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. CLE has two construction projects that may impact your travel this summer. Starting in June, work will begin to expand the Central Security Checkpoint. Already underway is our RTA Tunnel Rehabilitation Project, which includes closing two lanes of the lower roadway. Drivers picking up guests should use the upper roadway to avoid congestion on the Arrivals level. These projects will improve upon our existing facility as we prepare for the work mentioned our CLEvolution announcement earlier this month where we unveiled plans for a new \$1.6 billion front of the house for CLE starting next year. For more information visit [www.itsaclevolution.com](http://www.itsaclevolution.com).

The Airport also encourages anyone flying this summer to check their driver's license to ensure they are Real ID ready. Enforcement of the Real ID requirements is already in place and failure to secure a Real ID could lead to you missing your flight.

Just in time for summer, three new routes are starting that we didn't have last summer. Frontier and Spirit both start service to Nashville, Frontier starts service to Boston and Delta started service to Salt Lake City in the fall, which is new for this summer as well.

## Central Checkpoint Detailed

Starting in mid-June, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) will embark on a project to expand the Central Security Checkpoint, which will include reconfiguring the restrooms at that location.

The space immediately to the north of the checkpoint in front of the current restroom entrance will be absorbed into the Security Checkpoint to not only allow for 2 additional lanes of screening, but also increasing queueing space from 120 to over 300 lineal feet.

The stairs and ramp which currently provide access to the checkpoint and existing restrooms will also be relocated to remove the pinch point created when the security screening line extends beyond the current queueing space. These changes will also streamline the CLEAR screening area.

In order to utilize the space in front of the current restrooms, they will be closed and reconfigured so that guests can access them directly from the ticketing level in the space immediately north of the current checkpoint entrance.

To accommodate the expansion, the Interfaith Center will be closed, as the space will be utilized in the newly expanded checkpoint. It will be relocated just north of the current area, however, there will be a short period of time where the chapel will not be available for our staff and guests.

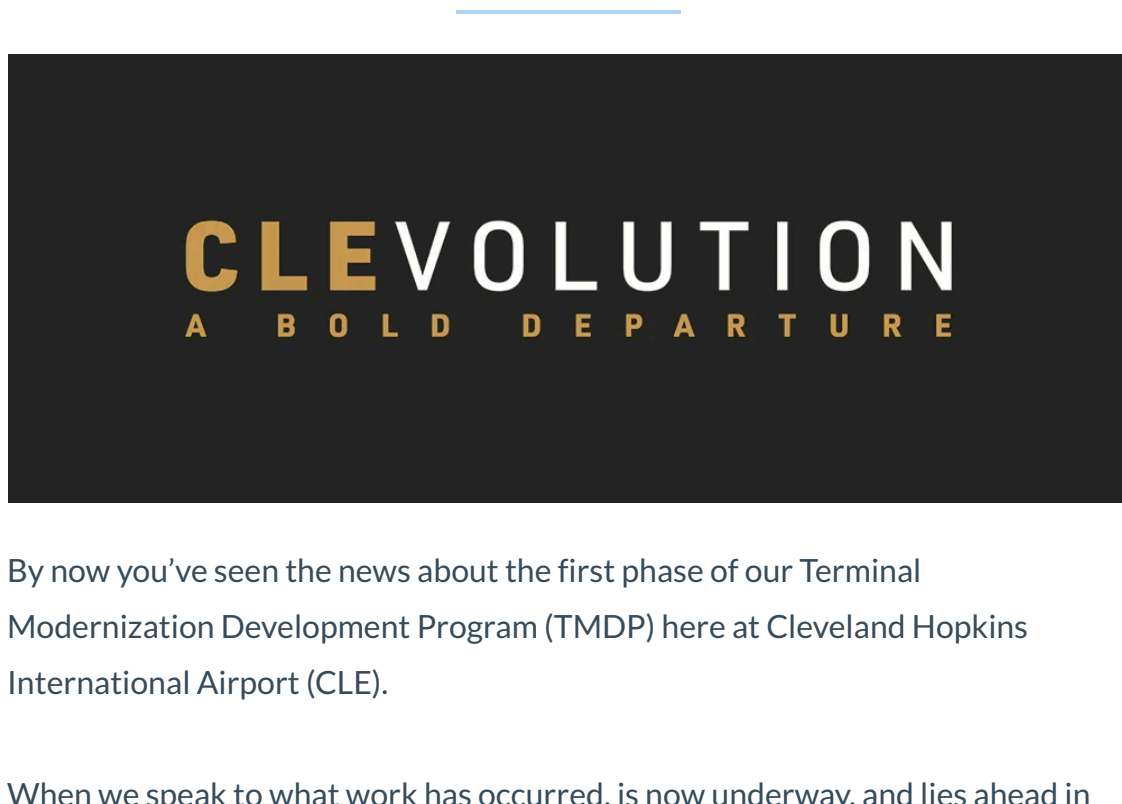
Feghali Brothers Construction will conduct work assisted with the Checkpoint Expansion project at a cost of approximately \$3.5 million.

The Restroom reconfiguration will be performed by Ozanne Construction Company with a cost of \$1.3 million.

Guests will be able to continue utilizing this checkpoint location throughout the construction period. The project is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

## The History of CLE

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Many don't know that the airport has a rich history starting with being the first municipally owned airport of its kind in the United States when it opened in 1925. It was initially opened to serve as a stop for U.S. Mail planes making coast-to-coast flights.



On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was the site of the first air traffic control tower. Also, from 1929 to 1949 CLE was the location of the National Air Races, fast-paced, closed-course races that drew tens of thousands of spectators and historic figures such as Charles Lindbergh, Roscoe Turner and Amelia Earhart. In 1930, the first airfield lighting system was installed, and then in 1939 the first ground-to-air radio control system was put in place.

The airport was renamed for William R. Hopkins on his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday in 1951. Hopkins was the first City Manager of Cleveland from 1924 to 1929.

Later in 1968, CLE was the first U.S. Airport to be directly connected to a local or regional rail transit system.

CLE's two-level passenger terminal, which was completed in 1978 was the first of its kind at the time.

Many of the 'firsts' here at CLE went on to become industry-changing ideas that elevated the aviation industry.

CLE looks to continue setting the bar as we begin a CLEvolution – implementing our Terminal Modernization Development Program (TMDDP) here at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE).



When we speak to what work has occurred, is now underway, and lies ahead in the numerous steps to come, we wanted to have a word or slogan to encompass it all. It is all in the pursuit of creating a long-needed new front door for our residents and visitors.

We need to modernize. To elevate the use of technology. We need to expand in core functional areas. We must become more efficient, while simultaneously becoming more user-friendly. Creating a welcoming and inviting environment. Our journey of implementing the TMDDP will be known as CLEvolution. It is the evolution of CLE. We are taking what we know as the guest experience today and elevating it in a way which will make Clevelanders and Northeast Ohioans extremely proud.

"I wanted a name that felt authentic to Cleveland but also captured the momentum of where we're headed. CLEvolution came from blending CLE, our identity, with evolution, which is exactly what this transformation represents," said Megan O'Connell, Assistant Director of Marketing, Communications and Guest Experience. "Director Francis and I worked closely on the concept, and together we landed on something that reflects both our vision and the bold steps we're taking. It's about progress, purpose, and creating something better for the people who travel through and work at this airport every day."



The CLEvolution name and campaign was created to reflect both the identity of CLE and the transformation underway. By blending the airport's code, CLE, with the word evolution, the name highlights a forward-looking approach to growth and improvement.

It represents how the airport is adapting to meet the needs of today's travelers while planning for the future of aviation in Northeast Ohio. Paired with the tagline "A Bold Departure," CLEvolution signals a meaningful shift in infrastructure, experience, and vision.

You can follow the progress of the project at [www.itsaclevolution.com](http://www.itsaclevolution.com)

## CLE Announces New Certified Members



Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) is proud to welcome new American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) Certified Members (C.M.) – Lisa Posley, William Horvatin, Anthony Bucco, John Hoose and Dennis Kramer.

"As an AAAE C.M. myself, I am always proud to hear other members of our Airport staff have earned this honor," said Bryant L. Francis, C.M., Director of Port Control. "The knowledge I gained in obtaining my certification has helped me advance my career, as I received my C.M. designation in April 2010, over 2-years prior to becoming an Airport Director."

According to AAAE's website, earning your C.M. is a great way to show your dedication to your airport career.

"I decided to pursue it because I enjoy this field, and because I enjoy my job and the responsibilities it demands," said William Horvatin, Superintendent of Airport Operations. "I take airfield safety very seriously and this certification continues a lifelong journey of learning. I'm glad I did because it taught me just how much I *didn't* know about aviation."

The program allows individuals to become a more well-rounded airport professional, and use their knowledge to improve the safety and efficiency of their airport.

"I started the C.M. journey over 13 years ago, but due to work, life, and becoming a mom, it kept getting pushed aside," said Posley. "The timing was finally right for me and I'm so thankful that the Airport is recognizing and supporting this professional accomplishment. I'm so proud that I was finally able to achieve this accomplishment."

"I decided to pursue the AAAE Certified Member certification as a way to intellectually challenge myself and grow professionally," said John Hoose, Assistant Commissioner of Airport Strategy. "Beyond the credential itself, I saw real value in the training materials as a means to broaden my understanding of airport operations and management—especially in areas outside my current area of expertise."

Many who have earned their certification encourage others within the organization to take the leap to obtain theirs as well.


"I decided to take the AAAE Certified Member because I want to make CLE the best," said Anthony Bucco, Interim Assistant Commissioner of Regulatory Compliance. "It's been my goal since arriving in 2019, when I started as an Airport Security Coordinator. The more knowledge we attain, we change the narrative of how people think of our city. It's an honor to be given the opportunity and I encourage other DPC employees to take this next step to advance their aviation careers."

"Obtaining my C.M. not only helps me perform my job duties to the best of my ability, but also helps the overall organization to perform at a higher level as well," said Dennis Kramer, Assistant Director, Airport Development.

To become a C.M., a member must successfully complete a 180-question, multiple-choice examination. AAAE provides electronic study materials, as well as special training courses to help you prepare for the exam.

Once you pass the exam, you will forever be a C.M., with all the rights and privileges, as long as you maintain AAAE membership. If you meet the additional criteria for an Accredited Airport Executive (A.A.E.), your exam completion will transfer to your A.A.E. program, should you choose to advance your career further.

Watch for more stories like these that share information about DPC and our airports. The stories in this issue of *The Hopkins Approach* demonstrate how we are working together to fulfill the Department of Port Control's Mission, Vision, and Values, including our RESPECT Model and Strategic Priorities.

 enjoy going places

Follow Us



Not subscribed to The Hopkins Approach? [CLICK HERE](#)

[FLIGHT INFORMATION](#)

[TRAVELER INFO](#)

[AT THE AIRPORT](#)

[PARKING & TRANSPORTATION](#)

Cleveland Airport System, 5300 Riverside Dr., Cleveland, Ohio 44135

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)