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LAGUARDIA GATEWAY PARTNERS ANNOUNCES OPENING OF TAXIWAY UNDER SKYBRIDGE



*Southwest Flight 617 to Tampa Became First Aircraft to Taxi Under Skybridge at 7:35 This Morning
[\[Photos and B-Roll Here, Attribution to LaGuardia Gateway Partners\]](#)*

New York, N.Y. – May 20, 2021 – Today, LaGuardia Gateway Partners (LGP), the private entity managing and redeveloping LaGuardia Airport’s Terminal B, announced the first aircraft taxi under the new eastern pedestrian skybridge. Passengers on Southwest Flight 617 to Tampa were treated to a full water salute to celebrate the milestone after they taxied under the bridge. Passengers inside Terminal B awaiting their flights were able to watch the first aircraft taxi right underneath them as they stood inside the pedestrian skybridge.

The eastern skybridge connects the Arrivals & Departures Hall, which opened in June 2020, directly to the eastern concourse gates – a truly innovative design that allowed the original airport facility to remain operational throughout construction. The pedestrian skybridge is 430 feet long and the highest part of the bridge is 97 feet above the taxiway.

When the redevelopment of Terminal B is fully complete, LaGuardia will be the only airport in the world with dual skybridges. The design of the dual skybridges will bring a much needed extra two miles of taxiway space to the busy airport. The second skybridge, scheduled to be complete by the end of 2021



with the taxiway underneath opening in 2022, will connect the western concourse to the Arrivals & Departures Hall. This western skybridge will also offer beautiful views of the Manhattan skyline.



Video and photos of the first aircraft taxi under the skybridge can [be found here](#) and used with attribution to LaGuardia Gateway Partners.

Rick Cotton, Executive Director, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, said, “As the region begins to reopen, a whole new LaGuardia Airport continues to move forward creating a world-class airport experience for travelers. Today marks a unique and important milestone. The innovative design of the airport provides a 50% increase in aircraft taxiways that will dramatically decrease gate congestion and gate delays, greatly reducing a major source of frustration for passengers. Passengers utilize pedestrian skybridges over an active taxiway to get to their gates which allows for the more efficient movement of aircraft. And upon completion of Terminal B, the new LGA will be the world’s only airport with dual skybridges.”

Jane Garvey, Global Chairman, Meridiam and Chairman of the Board, LaGuardia Gateway Partners, said, “LaGuardia Terminal B continues to offer passengers a premier travel experience. The opening of the skybridge – adding much-needed additional taxiway space and easing airport congestion – is another milestone towards modernization and investment in U.S. aviation.”

George Casey, Chair and CEO, Vantage Airport Group and member of the Board of Directors of LaGuardia Gateway Partners, said, "This skybridge demonstrates the innovative focus on planning and design that went into the redevelopment of LaGuardia Terminal B, which allowed LaGuardia Airport to remain operational throughout the entire redevelopment project. As an equity investor, lead developer and manager of LaGuardia Gateway Partners, it's been an honor to oversee the redevelopment and management of Terminal B alongside the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey."



Magnus Eriksson, Executive Vice President of Skanska Asset Management and member of the Board of Directors of LaGuardia Gateway Partners, said, "We're thrilled to deliver a new skybridge that will benefit LaGuardia Terminal B passengers and ease taxiway traffic. The redevelopment of LaGuardia into a world-class airport has been a tremendous, collaborative undertaking, and I want to thank everyone who worked to deliver this latest milestone."

Stewart Steeves, CEO, LaGuardia Gateway Partners, said, "Today we're taking a major step towards our first-in-the-world dual pedestrian bridges – giving New Yorkers another reason to be proud of LaGuardia Terminal B as the gateway of the city. We're grateful for our partners at the Port Authority, Vantage Airport Group, Meridiam, and Skanska for their collaboration in making this possible."

Mike Gillock, Airport Affairs Regional Leader, Southwest Airlines, said, "Since LaGuardia Airport is the base for Southwest's New York City operations, we were honored to mark today's milestone by operating the first flight underneath LaGuardia Terminal B's skybridge via the new taxiway. Southwest's Customers and Employees continue to share wonderful feedback about the world-class facility that LaGuardia Gateway Partners has developed, and we appreciate our ongoing partnership with LaGuardia Gateway Partners and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as we welcome Southwest Customers to New York City and Terminal B."

The new 1.3 million-square-foot Terminal B is part of the comprehensive redevelopment of LaGuardia Airport. With a construction value of \$4 billion, the Terminal B project is one of the largest public-private partnerships in American history and the largest in US aviation. The Terminal B redevelopment is now over 85% complete with a new Arrivals & Departures Hall, eastern concourse, and parking garage all open. The first half of the western concourse is also open, with the remaining gates on track to open in 2022.

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About LaGuardia Gateway Partners

LaGuardia Gateway Partners was selected by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to deliver an extensive capital redevelopment project at LaGuardia Airport's Terminal B that will provide world-class terminal facilities and operations for passengers and airlines.

LaGuardia Gateway Partners is composed of Vantage Airport Group, Skanska, Meridiam, and JLC Infrastructure for development and equity investment. Vantage Airport Group leads the redevelopment program and management of Terminal B, with Skanska Walsh as the design build joint venture and HOK and WSP for design.

LaGuardia Gateway Partners' members have worked on more than 350 aviation and transportation projects globally and domestically, including international airports in New York (John F. Kennedy), Chicago, Doha, Delhi, Los Angeles, Santiago, and Nassau. For more information, visit www.laguardiaB.com or follow on Twitter at [@terminalBLGA](https://twitter.com/terminalBLGA)