

Sea-Tac International capital improvement program contract winds down

Imagine providing major construction and operations projects for a business that never closes and must have public access 24/7, 365 days each year. That's been the setting for CH2M HILL employees at work on the 10-year, \$3.3 billion program management contract for the Port of Seattle at Seattle-Tacoma (Sea-Tac) International Airport (STIA).

In 1998, CH2M HILL began a multi-faceted program management contract for the Port of Seattle to manage a number of improvements at STIA, which handled more than 31 million passengers in 2007. Since then, CH2M HILL has helped deliver projects that have changed the face of Sea-Tac forever.

South Terminal expansion (Concourse A)

This new terminal added 14 gates, additional baggage handling, and a new five-story airport office building. Before the office space was added, airport staff was located at multiple sites throughout the airport terminal building and offsite. The consolidated location has helped staff work more efficiently.

Central Terminal expansion/concessions program

When the contract expired in 2004 that covered all concessions in STIA, the client saw an opportunity to create a different experience—one that entices travelers and local residents alike.

Over the next 4 years, more than 20 tenants were contracted and created their own unique stores in 80 different locations, representing an eclectic mix of retail, food, and gift stores peppered throughout the terminals.

Rental car facility design

Sea-Tac's newly designed rental car facility may be the first of its kind to garner LEED certification. "When it's built, the new rental car facility customer service area will be configured like a mall," said Kathy Cox-Czosnyka, who managed the design.

During design, Cox-Czosnyka and her team approached the project in a fresh way, taking advantage of the site's natural 90-foot (27.43 meters) grade change to create four terraced levels, which allows each floor of the building to have its own fuel center while keeping the fueling operation on dirt—a safety requirement. The facility is slated for completion in 2011.



An artist's rendering of the airport's new rental car facility.



Sea-Tac's concession program was awarded the 2007 Richard A. Griesbach Award of Excellence, presented by the Airports Council International-North America. "The Port of Seattle wanted us to create a dynamic concession mix that reflects the same individualism as the Pacific Northwest," said Kristi Meyer, project manager for the concessions program.

Third runway expansion and airport road construction

The \$1 billion runway expansion and airport road construction project created a new runway that will allow landings on two runways at the same time in all but the worst weather, significantly reducing flight delays and costs for passengers and airlines.

In addition, CH2M HILL is improving existing roads and creating new ones to accommodate the arrival of a light-rail system by 2009.

Contract closeout

The current program management contract for STIA wraps up on December 31, 2008. "We're proud of successfully delivering the program with high-quality solutions," said Cox-Czosnyka, "and we're working on an exit strategy that will allow our client to continue operations seamlessly and efficiently." CH2M HILL

Seattle underground: U-Link light-rail tunnel

The U-Link tunnel project, a key component of Sound Transit's \$1.5 billion light-rail extension program, is the latest Northwest win for CH2M HILL's transportation group.

A 9-year, joint-venture effort between CH2M HILL and Jacobs Field Services, the project will result in a twin-bore tunnel for a light-rail segment connecting downtown Seattle to the University of Washington's Husky stadium, 3.2 miles (5 kilometers) to the north.

"This is the sweet spot of the transit system in Seattle," said John Franklin, Seattle area manager and project manager, "with an estimated 60,000 trips per day when the project is completed in 2016."