



CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

MICHAEL S. YENNI

Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Announcement of Airport Redevelopment Expands on Kenner's 2030 Plan

Kenner, LA- In a decision that could have far-reaching implications on the ability of Kenner to attract new residents and businesses, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu announced Wednesday that he has decided on a \$650 million makeover of Armstrong New Orleans International Airport that includes building a new, modern terminal north of the east-west runway.

Landrieu shared the details of the plan with Kenner and Jefferson Parish officials before announcing the decision at a press conference Wednesday morning. Consultants had spent 20 months studying four options to upgrade the airport and the New Orleans Aviation Board voted in favor of a new terminal on the north side of the airport footprint. The construction of a three-concourse terminal and 3,000-space parking garage could be completed by 2018.

Kenner Mayor Michael Yenni said the big changes at the airport should mean more flights and visitors and comes just a day before the Kenner City Council is set to vote on a bond refinancing plan that will free up \$29 million for beautification improvements at 10 major corridors throughout the city.

"We couldn't be more excited in Kenner for a new and improved airport to hopefully go along with \$29 million in beautification improvements the City Council will consider authorizing tomorrow night."

While the relationship between Kenner and New Orleans has been icy at times over the years - largely because of airport issues - Yenni and other Kenner officials said they appreciated Landrieu personally offering details of the big changes ahead for the airport.

In fact, Council President Jeannie Black, a 19-year veteran, said it was the first time she could ever recall seeing a New Orleans mayor in Kenner.

While the airport was one of the largest in the South when it opened to traffic in 1946, that is no longer the case. The terminal, 54 years old, is ancient in an industry when few terminals last 25 years without major renovations or a complete overhaul.

Studies at the airport had come up with four options for Landrieu. One included improvements to the facility without moving the terminal. Two others involved moving the terminal slightly to the west or just south of its current location. Landrieu has said for some time that he favored building a new terminal on the northern edge of the 1,700-acre airport.

According to Landrieu, the north option makes the most sense for a number of reasons:

- No land acquisition would be necessary by relocating to the north side of the airport.
- A new entrance near Loyola Drive at Aberdeen Street would provide excellent access to Interstate 10.
- Keeping the existing terminal in place while building a new facility to the north would minimize impact on the flying public and airport operations during construction.
- The location on the north side of the airport footprint would be best for creating new revenue and jobs for the community.

While Landrieu put the cost of the airport overhaul at \$650 million, he said possible additions for the north side terminal project include \$87 million for a flyover addition from I-10 for improved access to the airport; \$17 million for a potential on-site hotel and \$72 million for a power plant.

Yenni said the terminal's location near Aberdeen Street nearly cuts the city in half, making a side trip to Laketown, Rivertown or somewhere in between a real possibility for a passenger finding himself with a few hours to kill.

In addition, a sleek, new terminal will become another reason for businesses and residents to locate in Kenner. "In some cities, the airport is an hour-long drive or longer, which can be a real inconvenience," Yenni said. "But if you live or work in Kenner, you'll have the newest airport in the country just a few minutes away. Combine this with the beautification and corridor improvements we are planning throughout the city and our partnership with the state for a new commercial development on the lakefront...all of it is the beginning of something great, including strong partnerships in government for the betterment of the entire New Orleans area. The pieces are coming together and the future for Kenner has never looked brighter."

To view photos of the collaboration between Mayor Mitch Landrieu and the City of Kenner Mayor, Councilmembers and administration, please click here:

http://www.kenner.la.us/pages/section_41_342.asp

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