



## PRESS RELEASE

November 15, 2005

Contact: Public Affairs Office: 703-417-8370

### **Thanksgiving Travel Expected To Be Heavy**

Thanksgiving travel this year at Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International Airports will keep the airports busy.

"This year we have seen major increases in the number of passengers at our airports. This year to date, we are looking at a 13% increase in travelers at Reagan National and a 30% increase at Dulles International. We have added five additional security checkpoint lanes at Reagan National to improve the screening process; however, we know that during the holiday period there will be long lines in our terminals and crowded parking facilities. We want our customers to be prepared for this busy period, which will probably start the Friday before Thanksgiving and continue until the Monday following the holiday. We advise travelers to come early and visit our website at [wwwmwaa.com](http://wwwmwaa.com)," said Airports Authority President/CEO James E. Bennett.

The Airports Authority offers these travel tips:

**Call In Before Check-In:** Call your airline's 800 number or visit the airline website to confirm your flight or to verify security regulations related to checked baggage. Weather can greatly affect flight schedules. You may also check the Airports Authority website at [www.mwaa.com](http://www.mwaa.com) for airport information.

**Arrive early** -- Travelers are urged to arrive at the airport at least 2 to 2 1/2 hours before domestic flights and 3 hours before international flights to allow enough time for ground transportation, parking, luggage check-in and security screening. This will also allow time to relax and take advantage of the many food and retail options at the airports.

-more-

## ***Parking -***

### **Reagan National**

***Parking lots and garages may fill up the week before and the week of Thanksgiving at Reagan National.*** Travelers who drive and park should call ahead to check availability of parking. Receive up-to-the-minute parking information by calling **703-417-PARK** (7275).

### **Dulles International**

While the Airport offers 25,000 public parking spaces, favorite spots may be taken. Allow extra time to find a parking space.

**PAY & GO is available at Dulles to avoid lines at the parking exits.** Drivers who park at Dulles Airport should take their parking ticket with them and use the Pay & Go Machines as they exit the Terminal building. Pay & Go Machines are located in the lower level of the Terminal near the east and west exit doors. The machines accept \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills and MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover Card and Diners Club credit cards.

Once the ticket is paid at the Pay & Go machine in the Terminal, drivers exit at the Pay & Go lanes with the paid ticket without having to stop at the cashier booth. Free Airport shuttle buses operate between the economy lots to the terminals. For parking information at Dulles, please call 703-572-4500.

**Try the Washington Flyer Bus Service, Washington Flyer Taxi, or Super Shuttle Service--** For information about Washington Flyer express bus service from the Metro West Falls Church Station to Dulles Airport, please call 703-685-1400 or 1-888-WASHFLY or [www.washfly.com](http://www.washfly.com). For Washington Flyer Taxi service, please call 703-661-6655 to place a reservation. In addition, Super Shuttle provides door-to-door shared-ride service to the airports. Call 1-800-BLUEVAN.

**Take Metro --** Travelers using Reagan National Airport find Metro a good alternative to driving. The Airports Authority also encourages Dulles passengers to consider taking Metro to the West Falls Church Station and connecting to the Washington Flyer Bus to Dulles.

**Before You Go to the Ticket Counter--**

Make sure the security screeners can open your suitcase

Consider using the **airline ticket kiosk** if you have an e-ticket

Be sure to have a **boarding pass BEFORE** you leave the ticketing area and keep it handy to show at the security checkpoints.

Place **i.d. tags** on the inside and outside of your checked baggage.

Have government-issued **photo identification** for all passengers over age 18.

**Before You Go to the Security Checkpoint-**

Know what items are NOT allowed. Check [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for a complete list.

**Leave gifts unwrapped.** They may be opened for inspection.

**Avoid wearing** clothing, jewelry, and accessories that contain metal and may set off the alarm at screening checkpoints. **To speed the process, remove your shoes and use the complimentary bags provided by the Airports for loose items.**

**Put cameras and undeveloped film in your carry-on baggage.** Checked baggage screening equipment will damage some undeveloped film.

Carry-on baggage is **limited to one carry-on bag plus one personal item.** Personal items include laptops, purses, small backpacks, briefcases, or camera cases.

**Place identification tags inside and outside** of all of your baggage. Don't forget your laptop computer; be sure to put an i.d. label on the computer itself and the carrying case.

**Travel wisely--** Carry medicine, cash, jewelry and other important valuables with you on the plane. If you leave your car at the airport, remove any valuables. Carry your purse and wallet securely, and keep your luggage and carry-on items in your sight at all times. Under security procedures unattended bags and other items will be confiscated and destroyed

For more information about Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International Airports, call **703-417-8000** for National and **703-572-2700** for Dulles. The Airports also have a **website** which is [www.mwaa.com](http://www.mwaa.com)