

Date: 12/14/2023

Author: Connor Hart

Topics: Freightway, Bi-State Development, St. Louis Downtown Airport

## Negotiations with airlines going fairly well

### Airport needs sign-off from carriers to support \$3B single-terminal project

Negotiations with airlines over how to pay for a massive \$3 billion single-terminal redevelopment at St. Louis Lambert International Airport are going “fairly well,” the airport’s leader, Rhonda Hamm-Niebruegge said.

“Negotiations go up and down, like any negotiations, but they’re going fairly well,” Hamm-Niebruegge said earlier this month at an event hosted by the St. Louis Regional Freightway.

Lambert’s airlines, Southwest Airlines being by far the biggest, and their customers would pay for the project through landing and rental fees.

Airport officials said they began the negotiations in May and previously said they would take two years. Hamm-Niebruegge now said they hope to reach an agreement with the airlines during summer 2024.

A Southwest spokesperson said in a statement: “Southwest Airlines is leading an airline committee in negotiations for a business deal which would ultimately support the development and construction of a new central terminal. In collaboration with the team at St. Louis Lambert International Airport, we have been making progress in those discussions.”

After reaching agreements with its airlines, Lambert could then begin its approval and 18-month architectural design processes, Hamm-Niebruegge said. The airport has said the facility could open in the early 2030s.

Lambert’s plan to remake itself into a 62-gate, dual-sided, single concourse facility is one of multiple significant projects taking place across five St. Louis-area airports, officials running the facilities said at the event.

A dual-sided concourse at Lambert is “critically important,” Hamm-Niebruegge said, as it’s currently not seen on most of the airport’s concourses, preventing further growth at the airport.



DILIP VISHWANAT | SLBJ

St. Louis Lambert International Airport’s master plan, which runs through 2040, includes a \$3 billion project to reconfigure the facility with a new, single terminal.

