

The Columbus Dispatch

John Glenn Airport continues to report strong passenger traffic

Posted May 23, 2017 at 4:08 PM Updated May 23, 2017 at 4:21 PM

By [Marla Rose](#)
The Columbus Dispatch

John Glenn Columbus International Airport remains on track to have its busiest year ever, with passenger numbers for April up 8.3 percent over the previous April and year-to-date figures up 5.5 percent over the same period in 2016.

The figures were released at the monthly board meeting of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, which oversees John Glenn Airport and cargo-focused Rickenbacker Airport.

Rickenbacker also had a strong month, with cargo tonnage up about 20 percent for both the month and the year so far, and passengers on budget airline Allegiant Air up 42.2 percent for the month of April.

Elaine Roberts, CEO of the airport authority, said early this year that 2017 was likely to be John Glenn Airport's biggest-ever year in passenger totals.

The previous record was set in 2007, during the short-lived tenure of Columbus-based Skybus Airlines, when the airport served 7.7 million passengers. Last year was second-busiest, at 7.3 million.

Also on the agenda for the board was approval of a \$105.7 million contract with Turner Construction to work on a new rental-car facility for John Glenn Airport. The project, which would lay the groundwork for the planned new terminal that's a couple of decades away, is

expected to break ground in spring 2018 and be completed before the end of 2020.

The airport currently has an outside company conducting a study to determine the optimal time to start work on the long-planned new terminal, which now is expected to cost at least \$1 billion.

The rental car facility will have a total expected cost of \$153.7 million. It will be paid for by fees assessed on car rentals at the airport.