

# **New Terminal Building at Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City**

## **Context**

Traverse City, located in Grand Traverse County, is one of Michigan's most popular tourist destinations. The area is known for its cherry orchards, wineries, and proximity to Lake Michigan.

## **Purpose and Description**

The former north terminal site was constrained, and would not allow for building or parking lot expansions to meet current passenger demands. A new site was established on the south side of the airport, and a new terminal building constructed to meet current and projected future demands.



## **Public Engagement**

Public meetings were held during the planning process to receive early input from all concerned parties regarding the proposed location, access issues, and environmental concerns.

## **Challenges**

Development of an entirely new terminal location required clearing and site preparation, provision of utilities, and construction of a new apron and connecting taxiway system for aircraft, and an entrance road and parking area for vehicles.

## **Context Sensitive Solutions Approach**

The Northwestern Regional Airport Commission and the management of Cherry Capital Airport instructed the designers to reflect the personality and lifestyle of the population being served by this facility in terms of aesthetics and atmosphere. Preservation of as much of the existing mature forest as possible in the new terminal area was also an important concern. In developing a design for the facility, operational needs of the airlines and airport tenants (including concessionaires, rental car agencies, and travel agencies) were considered, as were the needs of the travelling public.

## **Outcome**

The new terminal building opened in October 2004. This facility reflects the history and culture of the Traverse City area by incorporating appropriate natural materials, local imagery, and indigenous landscaping in its design. A midwest resort architectural style that is warm and expressive of the northwest lower peninsula of Michigan is used throughout the building. The new facility is very successful at making passengers' transition from aircraft to automobile a very convenient and comfortable experience.

## **Funding**

The cost of the terminal building was approximately \$24,000,000. Site development costs, including apron, taxiways, roadway, and lighting, were approximately another \$10,000,000. Funding was provided by a combination of federal, state, and local sources.

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