

BUSINESS

Amazon helps air cargo construction take off

By Keith Schneider
NEW YORK TIMES

HEBRON, Ky. — Since the pandemic started nearly a year ago, 15,000 fewer people arrive and depart daily from the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, known as CVG. Yet the 60 percent drop in passenger traffic is not so apparent on the airport's four runways, which are handling a record amount of air cargo — nearly 4,000 tons a day.

Ranked by the Federal Aviation Administration as the nation's sixth-largest cargo airport, CVG's standing is about to climb higher.

Amazon Air, the e-commerce giant's 5-year-old cargo airline, is completing a 798,000-square-foot sorting center, seven-level parking structure and acres of freshly poured concrete to accommodate 20 aircraft. The new facility, under construction on a 640-acre site along the airport's southern boundary, is scheduled to open in the fall. It represents about a third of the \$1.5 billion, 3-million-square-foot air cargo hub Amazon is committed to building at CVG.

"This hub is going to let us to get packages to customers faster," Jeff Bezos, the Amazon founder and chief executive, said during the groundbreaking ceremony at CVG in May 2019. "That's a big deal."

By far the largest air cargo construction project in the airport's 74-year history, the mile-long facility will be the center of Amazon Air's national air transport network, which now has more than 70 aircraft and hundreds of daily flights to 35 other cities in the United States. Last week, Amazon announced the purchase of 11 Boeing 767-300 aircraft as



Hunter Kerhart / New York Times

FedEx, the world's largest air cargo carrier, handled an average of 6.2 million air packages a day last year, a 48 percent increase over 2016. Amazon's influence has spurred carriers to beef up their air cargo hubs.

part of an effort to expand its fleet.

The new building is a single of Amazon's influence as the largest online retailer and its dedication to fast delivery. Both have helped generate a wave of air cargo construction at airports across the United States.

FedEx, the world's largest air cargo carrier, handled an average of 6.2 million air packages a day last year, a 48 percent increase over 2016. The company just opened a \$290 million, 51-acre project at the Ontario International Airport in Southern California. It features a 251,000-square-foot sorting facility, spacious concrete ramps, nine gates, 18 truck loading docks and the capacity to handle 12,000 packages an hour.

UPS and Amazon also operate out of older buildings at the airport, which is handling 30 percent more cargo than it did in 2019. "There is a lot of consumer behavior that permanently changed in 2020," said Mark A. Thorpe, the airport's chief executive. "We're seeing

levels of cargo today that were expected in 2028."

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, the second-largest air cargo airport in the United States after Memphis International Airport, is planning for \$500 million in new freight and package handling and sorting facilities. The demand for more space by the airport's cargo companies — among them Alaska Cargo & Cold Storage, 6A Aviation, FedEx, UPS and Amazon — is soaring. As of the end of September 2020, the airport reported that 2.3 million tons of cargo had touched down in Alaska, a 9 percent increase over the same nine-month period in 2019.

At Chicago Rockford International, plans are underway to build a 90,000-square-foot cargo facility. As soon as it opens in the spring, the airport will start another 100,000-square-foot cargo project for DB Schenker, Emery Air and Senator International. Last year, Rockford completed a \$22.3 million, 192,000-square-foot facility for Amazon, along with \$14

million in concrete aprons sturdy enough for Boeing 747 aircraft.

"The traffic in cargo is responsible for all the new demand at airports now," said Rex J. Edwards, an industry analyst and vice president of the Campbell-Hill Aviation Group, a Northern Virginia consulting firm. "The cargo carriers want more airport space. They need room to park planes and facilities that meet next-day delivery requirements. That is the evolution of the business now."

Before the pandemic, e-commerce sales were growing more than 10 percent annually, pushing total air cargo to 12 million tons last year, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, a unit of the Transportation Department. Federal analysts project that air cargo will reach 45 million tons annually by midcentury. But executives at big air shippers, airports and airplane manufacturers say that the pandemic altered online commerce so substantially that the industry will hit that mark a decade sooner.

NTSB finds battery fires in electric cars pose risks to untrained first responders

By Tom Krisher
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Electric vehicle fires pose safety risks to first responders and guidelines from manufacturers about how to deal with them have been inadequate, according to U.S. investigators.

There are also gaps in industry safety standards and research on high-voltage lithium-ion battery fires, especially in high-speed, severe crashes, the National Transportation Safety Board said last week.

The agency, which has no enforcement powers and can only make recommendations, called for manufacturers to write vehicle-specific response guides for fighting battery fires and limiting chemical thermal runaway and reignition. The guidelines also should include information on how to safely store vehicles with damaged lithium-ion batteries.

The recommendations come at a time when automakers are rolling out multiple new electric vehicle models, with many in the industry perceiving an inflection point in switching from gasoline power to cleaner electricity.

The agency in its report also asked firefighter and auto towing associations to inform members about fire risks and how to deal with energy remaining in the battery after a crash, and on how to safely store a vehicle with a damaged battery.

And it's asking the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to include the availability of an emergency response guide when it calculates five-star vehicle safety



Orange County Sheriff's Department / Associated Press

The Orange County Fire Authority battles a fire on a burning vehicle. Firefighters identified the fuel source of the blaze as the SUV's high-voltage battery pack.

scores.

NHTSA also should build a coalition to research ways to de-energize batteries and reduce hazards from thermal runaway, a chemical reaction that causes uncontrolled battery temperature and pressure increases.

The NTSB started investigating battery fires after crashes and fires in Lake Forest and Mountain View, California, and in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in 2017 and 2018. It also probed a non-crash fire in West Hollywood, Calif. Three of the batteries reignited after fires were extinguished.

All four vehicles were made by Tesla, which is the top-selling electric vehicle maker in the U.S.

"The risks of electric shock and battery reignition/fire arise from the 'stranded' energy that remains in a damaged battery," the agency said.

In the August, 2017 fire in Lake Forest, a Tesla Model X battery caught fire after the vehicle left a road and crashed into a residential garage at a high speed. Thomas Barth, an NTSB engineer and high-

way investigator, said in an agency video that firefighters poured thousands of gallons of water onto the roof of the vehicle. "They didn't realize that they had to direct water onto the battery compartment under the car to cool the battery and stop the reaction causing the fire," he said.

In an 80-page report the NTSB wrote that a review of emergency response guidelines from 36 manufacturers found that all had ways to mitigate the risk of high-voltage shocks including methods for disconnecting the battery. But none of the guides spoke to limiting the risk of energy stored in the batteries, such as procedures for minimizing reignition or instructions on where and how to spray water to cool the batteries, the agency said.

One way to deal with damaged batteries is to pull them from the vehicle and soak them in a salt-water bath to discharge the energy, the NTSB wrote.

The National Fire Protection Association, which provides training to first

responders and tow companies, said it already has addressed most of the NTSB recommendations. Andrew Klock, emerging issues lead manager, says the group has put out training on how to extinguish battery fires, then jack up vehicles and douse the batteries with water to limit reignition.

The NFPA has trained about 250,000 first responders, but there are 1.2 million firefighters nationwide, Klock said.

In a statement, NHTSA said that last week it started a battery safety initiative to address growing concerns about electric vehicle and structure fires ignited by batteries. Under the initiative, the agency will analyze data, investigate fires and oversee investigations of electric vehicle crashes, the agency said.

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation, a large automaker trade group, said it will review the recommendations and is working with fire associations, NHTSA, the Society of Automotive Engineers and others to improve safety.

Legal Notices

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Legal Bids & Proposals Legal Bids & Proposals Legal Bids & Proposals

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.
IFB No. 4021000087: Reupholster of Bus Seats, Modesty Panels and ADA Rear Facing Barriers. Solicitation will be available on or about 01/19/2021. Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at <https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/>. If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

Invitation to Bid
BakerRipley is accepting bids for the interior construction of a new Workforce Solutions Office - South Union.
Bidders must attend a MANDATORY pre-bid conference on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at 5400 Griggs Road, Suite #200, Houston, TX 77021. Bid documents will be available on civcastusa.com/bids by end of day Monday, January 18, 2021.
Bids must be submitted via email to the Sr. Director of Facilities Planning by 2 p.m. Thursday, February 18, 2021 as indicated in the Invitation to Bid posted as part of the Bid documents.
Incomplete format submission and tardiness are grounds for rejection.

REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

CHANNELVIEW CRENSHAW AND McMULLAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENOVATIONS, CHANNELVIEW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Channelview Independent School District will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals until 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 28th, 2021 at the Channelview Independent School District Educational Support Center, 828 Sheldon Road, Channelview, Texas 77530. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held Thursday, January 21st, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. at Crenshaw ES Elementary School. A walk-through of the project sites will immediately follow the pre-proposal conference. Pro-posal Evaluation Criteria are published in the "Instructions to Propos-ers" section of the proposal documents. Plans and specifications will be released Thursday, January 14th, 2021, and will be available electronically from Huckabee at www.huckabee-inc.com/construction/ upon request. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all proposals.

REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

CHANNELVIEW HARVEY BROWN AND HAMBLEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENOVATIONS, CHANNELVIEW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Channelview Independent School District will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals until 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 26th, 2021 at the Channelview Independent School District Educational Support Center, 828 Sheldon Road, Channelview, Texas 77530. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held Tuesday, January 19th, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. at Harvey Brown ES Elementary School. A walk-through of the project sites will immediately follow the pre-proposal conference. Pro-posal Evaluation Criteria are published in the "Instructions to Propos-ers" section of the proposal documents. Plans and specifications will be released Thursday, January 14th, 2021, and will be available electronically from Huckabee at www.huckabee-inc.com/construction/ upon request. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all proposals.

Sealed Bid Solicitation #SC01-21A Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program Sewer Cleaning, Hydro-Excavating, Inspection Equipment And Miscellaneous Services
Response Deadline: 02/11/21 @ 1pm
Public Opening: 02/11/21 @ 2pm
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX.
Per ADA, reasonable accommodation provided with 24 hour prior notice.
713-993-4554 or www.hgacbuy.org for info.

Legals/Public Notices Legals/Public Notices

NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS AND PROVIDERS - SUPERIOR VISION OF TEXAS

Notice to Physicians and Providers

Superior Vision of Texas (Block Vision of Texas, Inc) is a vision care HMO that provides eye health and wellness examinations and corrective eyewear. Applications from physicians and eye care professionals who wish to become network participants under this plan will be accepted from Feb. 1, 2021 through Feb. 20, 2021. An application may be requested by visiting superiorvision.com/eye-care-professionals/join/ and submitting an application. In the additional information section please reference "Newspaper Notification". Superior Vision participates with the following plans: Aetna, Amerigroup, Christus, Children's Medical Center, Cigna, Parkland Health, Prominence Plus, Scott & White and Seton Health. Superior Vision of Texas, Attn: Network Development, 175 E Houston, San Antonio, TX, 78205

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***\$1.92 per line over 36 lines**

Legals/Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE TEMPLATE FOR (NEW) PUBLIC HEARING WITHOUT VARIANCE OR SPECIAL EXCEPTION (Virtual Meeting COVID 19)

The Houston Planning Commission has received an application to allow the replatting (or partial replatting) of Townhomes on Hickory being all or part of lots 1-6 and reserve A of block 1, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded under film code 665228, Volume 665, Page 228, of the map records of Harris County, Texas, and the South ½ of lots 5 and 6, Block 265, Baker Addition, according to the map or plat thereof, recorded under volume Y, page 350, of the Deed Records of Harris County, Texas, for the purpose to create 3 single family lots.

The new subdivision name is Saxxon Park. The City will send out written notice of a public hearing to all owners of property within 250' of the boundary of the plat and all parcels along or across from a blockface that abuts any street or private roadway extending 500 feet from the plat as measured along the centerline of any street or private roadway that abuts the boundary of the plat.

The Houston Planning Commission will hold a virtual meeting and public hearing on this replat on **Thursday, February 4th, 2021 at 2:30 PM via Microsoft Teams**. The video conference will allow for a two-way video/ audio communication with the Houston Planning Commission. For information on how to join the meeting or submit comments as a speaker, visit our website: www.houstonplanning.com or Call: 832-393-6624. Contact the applicant Field Data Service Inc. at 281-793-5192 or the City of Houston Planning Department at (832)393-6600 for any additional information.

LEGAL NOTICES & ANNIVERSARIES

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