

# Passenger traffic at MidAmerica St. Louis surges to new record

MidAmerica St. Louis Airport recently announced a new record of 163,210 passengers served in 2022, continuing a trend of positive passenger growth. The 2022 passenger count exceeds that of 2021 by nearly 2,000 and is fueled by a robust recovery from the travel disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic. As travelers become more comfortable with air travel and demand continues to surge, many people are taking advantage of the services that MidAmerica St. Louis Airport offers.

“MidAmerica Airport’s continuing growth is due to numerous factors,” said St. Clair County Chairman Mark Kern. “Passengers can count on easy access from Interstate 64, affordable parking and efficient airport and security operations, and they appreciate Allegiant’s strong route network serving popular destinations at affordable rates.”

MidAmerica airport currently serves the following nonstop destinations via Allegiant on either a year-round or seasonal basis: Charleston, Destin/Ft. Walton Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Ft. Myers/Punta Gorda, Jacksonville, Las Vegas, Myrtle Beach, Orlando, Phoenix/Mesa, Sarasota/Bradenton, Savannah, and Tampa Bay/St. Pete.

“We are excited about the sustained growth at MidAmerica Airport, especially at a time when travel demand is on the rise and the public is exploring more leisure destinations,” said Bryan Jonson, Director of MidAmerica St. Louis Airport. “Our growth goes beyond increased passenger numbers, as we are also enthusiastic about the progress being made on our terminal expansion project, which will deliver a new and improved security screening area, two additional boarding bridges, and significantly more passenger amenities.”

The passenger terminal expansion is not the only improvement project happening at MidAmerica Airport. A \$37.7 million project to add nearly 3,100 feet of new Taxiway Lima pavement and a new Taxiway Bridge over Crooked Creek is under construction. It will serve Boeing’s new production facil-

## St. Clair County Transit announces service, schedule changes beginning in March; adding Sauget route

To help meet the needs of its customer base, St. Clair County Transit District (SCCTD) will be making service and schedule adjustments to local MetroBus routes effective March 13, 2023.

These changes include the launch of the #3 Sauget – a new MetroBus route providing direct, all-day service to Sauget Industrial Park from the 5th & Missouri Transit Center – as well as the expansion, increased frequency of service, or route adjustment on several routes.

“We are very excited to add a new MetroBus route for ridership in St. Clair County,” said Herb Simmons, chair of St. Clair County Transit District’s Board of Trustees. “We understand the importance of helping people get where they need and want to go and are thrilled to be able to provide individuals on both sides of the river with convenient access to the more than 20 businesses in the Sauget Industrial Park.”

Following is a complete listing of service and schedule adjustments effective on March 13:

**#2 Cahokia Heights:** Increasing frequency to 20-minute service instead of every 30 minutes, while expanding service reach to now include Cahokia High School, School District 187 Administration Offices, Jerome Lane and Paris Street.



Allegiant Aircraft at MidAmerica St. Louis Airport terminal. (Submitted photo)

ity, which is slated for opening in 2024 and has the potential to spark future development of an aviation business park. MetroLink’s planned expansion from Scott Air Force Base to MidAmerica St. Louis Airport also is expected to be under construction as early as March 2023, making the airport even more accessible to potential customers all along the light rail alignment and providing a direct connection to St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

MidAmerica St. Louis Airport is located in Mascoutah, Ill. Passenger service to a dozen different destinations is offered by Allegiant. Major multimodal rail and inland port centers are located within 22 miles of the airport, which also enjoys easy access to five interstate highways via I-64. With parallel runways of 8,000 and 10,000 feet, the airport can handle simultaneous take-offs and landings in all conditions, minimizing delays.

It has an annual capacity of 200,000 operations. Tenants include Boeing, which has an aircraft manufacturing facility at the airport; North Bay Produce, an international, grower-owned,

year-round, fresh produce marketing and distribution cooperative headquartered in Traverse City, Mich.

MidAmerica is a Joint Use Airport partnering with Scott AFB, the home to US Transportation Command, a multi-service organization, and Air Mobility Command, the USAF’s component com-

mand for airlift. MidAmerica and the 375th Air Mobility Wing operate Scott AFB/MidAmerica St. Louis Airport.

To learn more about MidAmerica St. Louis Airport (BLV), visit [www.flymidamerica.com](http://www.flymidamerica.com) or follow the airport on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/midamericabl](http://www.facebook.com/midamericabl).

## Prairie Farms Dairy honors Ed Mullins for 42 years of service

After a 42-year career with Prairie Farms Dairy, industry executive Ed Mullins retired on December 31, 2022. This followed his decision in late 2021 to step down as Chief Executive Officer/Executive Vice President to assume a new role as Senior Executive Officer in 2022.

A celebration of his career was held last week in Edwardsville, Illinois, where hundreds of people, including Prairie Farms’ board members, present and past co-workers, industry professionals, and friends, gathered over a 2-day span to honor Mr. Mullins and share well-wishes for his retirement.



Current and former CEOs for Prairie Farms, Matt McClelland and Ed Mullins. (Submitted photo)

“It was a privilege to serve Prairie Farms over the last 42 years. My decision to retire was bittersweet because the Prairie Farms’ family means the world to me. From board members to our dairy farmers and employees, I will always be humbled by their trust in me to lead our fine company,” said Mr. Mullins. “At the same time, I’m looking forward to settling into retirement and enjoying the next phase of my life.”

As part of the celebration of Mr. Mullins’ career and legacy, a new wall of honors was unveiled at Prairie Farms’ corporate office. A lobby wall now proudly displays portraits of Mr. Mullins and former Chief Executive Officers F.A. Gourley, Leonard Southwell, and Roger Capps. Also, in Mullins’ honor, a conference room is being transformed into the Edward L. Mullins Conference Center.

“Ed has not only been my mentor throughout my 33-year career with Prairie Farms but a dear friend as well,” said Matt McClelland, Prairie Farms’ Chief Executive Officer/Executive Vice President. “It has been an honor to work with an industry legend for so many years, and Ed’s extraordinary leadership and contributions to Prairie Farms are beyond measure. On behalf of our board members, dairy farmers, and employees, we wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.”

Mullins’ career with Prairie Farms started in 1980. He held numerous leadership positions and served as Chief Executive Officer/Executive Vice

President from 2006-2021 and was only the fourth CEO since the company’s founding in 1938. He was the driving force behind many mergers and acquisitions that vastly expanded Prairie Farms’ footprint into new markets and product categories. Mullins attributes the company’s success and longevity to staying true to the vision of its founding leaders to simply “Do Right.”

Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc. is one of the largest and most successful dairy cooperatives operating in the Midwest and the South. Elements of the cooperative include more than 600 farm families, 7,000 team members, 50 manufacturing plants, over 100 distribution facilities, and annual sales of over \$4 billion. Prairie Farms is a nationally recognized leader in the dairy industry known for setting the standard for milk flavor innovations and producing award-winning milk, cheese, and cultured dairy products.

With headquarters in Edwardsville, Ill., the Prairie Farms distribution footprint covers over 30 percent of the United States; products are available in grocery chains, mass merchandiser stores, club stores, convenience stores, dollar stores, drug stores, schools, food service outlets, and warehouse distribution centers. For more information about Prairie Farms, visit [www.prairiefarms.com](http://www.prairiefarms.com).