

Port of Portland



PDX Carpet Replacement Project Backgrounder

Winter 2015

About the project

Portland International Airport is in the process of saying farewell to its iconic and heavily traveled carpet, as construction crews are now replacing the nearly 30-year-old carpet. Crews will replace about 13 acres of carpet—enough to cover about 10 football fields. Work will run through November 2015, and most work will take place at night to minimize disruptions for travelers.

The iconic pattern of the carpet has become a social media phenomenon, and has inspired a vast array of products featuring its design. The new custom broadloom tufted carpet is designed with comfort, durability, sustainability and aesthetics in mind to support an overall favorable experience for travelers and visitors.

The carpet replacement leads a period of major redevelopment for PDX, ensuring it stays on the leading edge of airports nationwide. Collectively known as PDXNext, this suite of major airport improvement projects will continue providing award-winning comfort and convenience for travelers, operational efficiency, and safety and security.

Old carpet design

The Port of Portland partnered with SRG Partnership, Inc. of Portland in the late 1980s to design the existing PDX carpet.

The old carpet pattern symbolized what an air traffic controller would see from the control tower at night, such as runways and lights, and used colors found in the Northwest.

New carpet design

ZGF Architects helped the Port develop a conceptual pattern for the new design. Hennebery Eddy Architects helped develop the final product, including project materials and construction support.

The modernized design of the new carpet features calming colors, and represents images of flight, nature and structures found in the Pacific Northwest and at PDX, such as airplane wings, leaves and the terminal roadway canopy.

Carpet testing

The Port of Portland tested a variety of carpets in the terminal building in 2013 to be sure that the carpet performed and looked as expected. Tests were performed to examine the durability (wear), functionality (performance) and aesthetics (color-fading, stain resistance) of the carpet. During this testing, the Port also tested carpet in a laboratory specifically geared toward carpet assessment.

What will happen to the old carpet?

Because most of the old carpet is in poor or failing condition, most of the old carpet will be recycled. However, to meet the community's desire to have a carpet memento, plans are underway to repurpose some of the carpet. The process will make some large quantities available to vendors, who are anticipated to make small quantities available to others. Related information is available on the bulletin board at www.pdx.com.

Carpet project partners

The Port's carpet project partners include:

- Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP of Portland, Ore; conceptual pattern of new design
- Hennebery Eddy Architects, Inc. of Portland, Ore.; final product development, logistics and construction support
- Emerick Construction Co., Happy Valley, Ore.; general contractor
- Rubenstein's, Eugene, Ore.; carpet purchase and installation
- J+J Flooring Solutions, Dalton, Ga.; carpet fabrication (for most of the carpet)

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PDX Carpet: Present and future



Present: Photo of existing PDX carpet in the Oregon Market.



Future: A digital rendering of what the new PDX carpet will look like in the Oregon Market.