



April 11, 2014

Thank you for signing up for updates from Global Gateway Alliance, your New York-New Jersey airport advocacy group. As you may have noticed, we've been pretty busy recently and wanted to keep you abreast of our latest work.

Over the past couple of months, we've championed a variety of pertinent issues, from fighting for shorter Customs lines at JFK and Newark, improving mass transit links to and from our airports, and leading the charge to finally have New York area airports offer Free Wifi to all passengers.

Now we need your help to keep the progress going and make our New York New Jersey airports world class again. GGA is accepting donations on [our website](#) via the “donate” button located in the menu on the right-hand side. Contributions of any size are greatly appreciated and will help us fight for better airports.

Outlined below are some of the major initiatives we've been working on:

1. **Customs Wait Times:** GGA has carried out several studies looking at customs wait times at New York area airports, revealing that last summer, Terminal 4 at JFK had some of the longest wait times in the country. GGA called for automated customs kiosks and increased manpower as a solution to the problem. Following the installations of customs kiosks at Terminals 1 and 4 at JFK, subsequent GGA studies have shown there was a significant reduction in wait times. Furthermore, hundreds of new Customs agents are being trained and stationed at JFK and Newark airports. <http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/innovation-helps-shorten-customs-wait-jfk-article-1.1710917>

2. **Making Airports a Top Budget Priority:** GGA lobbied for the Port Authority to make its airports its top budget priority. In particular, GGA repeatedly advocated for the extension of the PATH to Newark in order to provide passengers with access to a one-seat ride to the airport. This year, the Port Authority officially undertook the project as part of its 10 Year Capital Plan, which dedicated \$8 billion to airport upgrades. http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2014/02/port_authority_capital_plan_unveiled.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

3. **Major Infrastructure Investment:** As major supporters of the Central Terminal Building redevelopment at LaGuardia, GGA has put the spotlight on the project to ensure progress is continuous and rapid. GGA has also called for *NextGen*, a technological overhaul of the air traffic control system, to be brought to New York first in to reduce flight delays. <http://bloom.bg/1halksA>

4. **Free Airport WiFi:** New York area airports are some of the only places left in the region and country that do not offer free wifi. GGA highlighted this disparity through studies and advocacy, and worked together with Manhattan Borough President Gail Brewer to pass a City Council resolution urging free wifi. <http://nyp.st/19iCxIL>

For more information on our efforts, we have put together a “Year in Review: Top Ten” below, which goes through many of these issues in greater detail.

Also, please [click here](#) to take a fun survey we're conducting on your best (and worst) NY-NJ airport experiences.

We'll be sending updates periodically. Until then, feel free to get in touch with any thoughts, questions or suggestions

Many thanks,

Global Gateway Alliance

To unsubscribe from GGA's updates, please respond to this email to let us know and we will remove you from our mailing list.

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Year in Review – Top 10

1. **New Push for Free WiFi at NYC Airports**, October 10, 2013: Manhattan Borough President Gail Brewer alongside GGA pushes the City Council to pass a resolution urging the Port Authority to renegotiate its contract with wireless provider Boingo, to provide passengers with access to free wifi. [NY Post] <http://nyp.st/19iCxlL>

Plus: [Resolution comes to a vote](#). [NY Post]

2. **Gorgeous Renderings Show What a New LaGuardia Airport Could Look Like**, March 20, 2014: GGA releases renderings of the Central Terminal Building at LaGuardia in order to showcase the potential for the space and generate excitement for the project. The designs include provisions for a rail link and a Bus Rapid Transit route. [Business Insider] <http://www.businessinsider.my/la-guardia-lga-airport-redesign-2014-3/#.Uz3lVahdXvl>

3. **New York-Area Airports Lag In Passenger Amenities**, October 23, 2013: A GGA study reveals that New York airports are the worst in the nation when it comes to passenger amenities. Comparing 15 amenities across 15 major US airports, LaGuardia finished last, offering only one of the listed amenities, while Newark and JFK followed close behind, scoring four and five, respectively. [NBC] <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/LGA-JFK-EWR-Airports-Report-229050681.html>

4. **Fixing New York's Airports: The Technology Problem**, March 31, 2014: The 60s radar air traffic control technology currently in use is woefully outdated and the cause of many delays at our airports, so airport advocates are calling for full NextGen implementation in New York first. *"With 50 to 75 percent of all delays in the U.S. originating in our airspace, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania share the most congested airspace in the world... The bottom line is: radar is ill-equipped to handle this modern-day level of air traffic."* [Capital NY] <http://capi.tl/O8FgE6>

5. **Study: Passport Kiosks Shorten Airport Lines**, March 5, 2014: GGA study shows that automated passport kiosks at JFK Terminal 4 drastically reduced the average wait time by 50%, having had the [longest wait times](#) over the summer, reaching up to two hours. Terminals without the new technology showed little improvement. [USA Today] <http://usat.ly/1i9ZgQr>

6. **Opinion: Bring LaGuardia Out of the Third World**, February 10, 2014: VP Joe Biden recently referred to LaGuardia as "third world". Although his wording is a touch extreme, Biden was right to call attention to the airport, and local and federal leaders should be working together to ensure the timely and comprehensive redevelopment of the Central Terminal. [CNN] <http://www.cnn.com/2014/02/10/opinion/sigmund-laguardia-biden-third-world/index.html>

7. **TSA Criticized for Removing Security From Exit Lanes, Despite 2010 Kiss that Shuttered Airport**, November 13, 2013: Due to budget cuts, TSA considers removing TSA agents from exit lanes, defaulting the responsibility onto the airport operator – in this case, the Port Authority. *"Talk about penny*

wise and pound foolish." [Star-Ledger]

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2013/11/tsa_critcized_for_destaffing_exit_lanes_after_2010_kiss_that_shut_down_newark_airport.html

Plus: Ultimately the TSA decided against removing the agents to the benefit of passengers and our airports. [http://globalgatewayalliance.org/sites/default/files/files/Letter%20from%20TSA\(3\).pdf](http://globalgatewayalliance.org/sites/default/files/files/Letter%20from%20TSA(3).pdf)

8. Port Authority Funds PATH Link to Newark Airport, February 4, 2014: The Port Authority announced plans to extend the PATH to Newark, providing passengers with a one-seat ride from Downtown Manhattan to the airport. This \$1.5B project came as part of its 10 Year Capital Plan, which dedicated a total of \$8B to NY airport upgrades <http://on.wsj.com/1c0v5qO>

Plus: GGA, alongside the Regional Plan Association (RPA), urged the MTA not to drop the proposed M60 Select Bus Service along 125th Street to LaGuardia. The MTA ultimately decided to implement the new airport access route. <http://blogs.wsj.com/metropolis/2013/08/28/calls-for-return-of-scraped-harlem-bus-line/>

9. Advocates Oppose Review of LaGuardia Flight Path, November 14, 2013: A new flight path in use at LaGuardia, known as the 'TNNIS Climb' and implemented as part of NextGen, means planes fly more direct routes and as a result, JFK is able to make use of all its runways, reducing delays. However, Queens residents oppose the new flight path due to noise concerns. [WSJ] <http://on.wsj.com/1j72bbJ>

Plus: The FAA later announced they would not be conducting another Environmental Impact Statement. <http://www.cityandstateny.com/faa-has-no-plans-for-noise-study-near-laguardia-airport/>

10. Airports Account for \$63B in Economic Activity, Report says, November 26, 2013: GGA Report finds that New York-area airports account for \$63B in economic activity and nearly half a million jobs. *"These numbers confirm what we've long known to be true; New York's metropolitan airports are incredible economic drivers."* [Crain's NY] <http://www.crainsnewyork.com/article/20131126/BLOGS04/131129921>