



Government of Canada makes a smart decision with its commitment to build a US Preclearance facility at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport

Toronto, ON June 30, 2023 – The following is a statement from John Thomas, CEO of Connect Airlines welcoming the Government of Canada’s investment in a new US customs preclearance facility at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport. Pending regulatory approval, Connect Airlines will begin daily commercial service to Toronto’s downtown waterfront airport from key US cities in the coming months.

“Connect Airlines applauds the Government of Canada’s commitment to improved transborder traveler service and enhanced destination choice with its investment in the construction of a new US preclearance facility at Toronto’s downtown waterfront airport. This commitment would not have been possible without the dedicated commitment of the Minister of Transport, the Honourable Omar Alghabra and we thank him for his leadership and foresight.

Over the past two years of our regulatory process, we have worked hard alongside PortsToronto and Nieuport Aviation to encourage the Canadian government to take this important step. The addition of US preclearance will make Toronto City Centre Airport truly, an airfield of dreams and once it’s built, more passengers will come.

Billy Bishop was already a destination of choice to launch our regional transborder service due to its location, award winning service, environmental focus and having by far the fastest arrival and departure passenger process in Toronto. In the coming years, US preclearance will further improve the passenger experience by opening new US domestic only airports, removing hours of operation constraints at US international terminals, and eliminate the need for passengers to transfer from domestic to international terminals, a trek that can impact connections. All in all it will facilitate more passengers to Toronto from the US and beyond and provide greater choice for Toronto travelers by providing easy connections over major US hub airports”

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About Connect Airlines

Connect Airlines is an operating brand of Waltzing Matilda Airlines (WMA), a Boston based FAA Part 135 charter operator currently adding FAA Part 121 scheduled and non-scheduled services. WMA identified the need for a "smarter airline" and brought together aviation leaders with over 150 years' experience who share a common passion – to work and fly smarter. With the planes we fly, the technology we use, and the operations we run, Connect Airlines will deliver a quieter, cleaner, and healthier travel experience. Connect Airlines, the future of smarter, greener travel.

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**A SMARTER
WAY TO FLY**



Connects' new Billy Bishop transborder service

- Connect Airlines to launch daily service to Billy Bishop Toronto City Centre Airport (YTZ) later this year from Philadelphia (PHL) and Chicago O'Hare (ORD). More US cities to be added after initial launch.*
- Connect service will feature the environmentally friendly Dash 8-400 aircraft reducing the carbon footprint by ~40% vs comparably sized regional jets and with comparable travel time to jet options.
- Economy and Premium Economy cabin seating with Premium Economy Cabin offering priority security/boarding, seats with an additional 5" of legroom, plus meal and drink service.
- The cabin will include full-sized overhead compartments for carry-on storage.

First US airline to fly zero-emission aircraft

- Through its strategic partnership with Universal Hydrogen, Connect will become the first US airline to operate zero-emission aircraft.
- The first test flight was held at Moses Lake, Washington, March 2, 2023.
- Connect is Universal Hydrogen's US launch customer with orders to convert 75 ATR 72 regional aircraft to hydrogen powertrains with purchase rights for 25 additional conversions.
- Potential to scale up quickly considering US market has approximately 1400 inefficient regional jets in service.
- Four out of 10 domestic US departures are on high carbon emitting regional jets.
- Deliveries to commence in 2025.*

**Subject to US and Canadian regulatory approval*