Here's what Syracuse airport will look like after $49M renovation (photos)

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9

Gallery: Syracuse airport terminal $49 million redesign

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Syracuse, N.Y. -- A $48.8 million redesign and reconstruction of the terminal building at Syracuse Hancock International Airport will give travelers a more modern and spacious airport.

New renderings released Tuesday at a groundbreaking for the project show:

- A terminal with 25,000 square feet of new glass.
- A 650-foot-long canopy with LED lights to protect cars and passengers from the elements during arrival and departure.
- Two glass pedestrian bridges above the passenger drop-off area to provide passengers using mobile airline tickets a more efficient route, connecting them directly to flights by skipping the ticketing lines.
- An exterior featuring perforated steel panels to withstand inclement weather, energy efficient windows and a rainwater collection system.
- Energy efficient lighting throughout the terminal and rooftop solar arrays.

The new terminal will also include better food, beverage and retail options, e-ticketing, and upgraded ticketing counters and baggage claim areas.

In addition, a regional aviation history museum, designed with assistance from the Onondaga Historical Association, will be located in the transit center.
The project includes the removal of the existing overhead precast concrete drive-thru canopy along the front of the terminal, opening the space for natural light. Nearly 5,000 tons of material is being moved from the site.

Construction began in September and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2018. When the work is done, the terminal will have 14,500 square feet more space.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo attended the groundbreaking, saying the project will produce a state-of-the-art facility "worthy of the Empire State."

The project is being funded with $35.8 million from the state, $9.1 million from the federal government, and $3.9 million from the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority and Onondaga County.