

## AAA Corporate Travel Newsletter

December 4, 2009

### IRS Reduces 2010 Mileage Rate to 50 Cents

The Internal Revenue Service today announced that it is lowering its 2010 standard mileage rate to 50 cents per mile from the 55-cent rate for 2009.

Effective Jan. 1, 2010, IRS's lower standard mileage rate will "reflect generally lower transportation costs compared to a year ago." The rate is calculated by Runzheimer International and is the standard that businesses use to calculate the reimbursable cost to travelers who use their personal vehicles for business.

While not a requirement, 74 percent of 200 corporate traveler buyers said they relied on the IRS rate to reimburse their drivers, according to *BTN* research fielded this year. Still, IRS said, "Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates." According to *BTN's* survey, 9 percent of companies formulate their own fixed rate, while nearly 6 percent said they use an internally developed fluctuating rate.

As in past years, gasoline costs are a significant factor in determining the rate, but other costs, including depreciation, are taken into account in formulating the rate, IRS said.

*BTNonline.com, December 3, 2009*

### Delta to cut flights to 5 cities from CVG

Delta is cutting direct flights from Cincinnati to five cities early next year.

Two flights each to Des Moines, Iowa, Tri-Cities, Tenn., and Montreal will be cut beginning Feb. 11, along with one flight each to Providence, R.I., and Oklahoma City.

Those cuts are in addition to a previously announced 10 percent overall reduction in flights in January.

Once second only to Atlanta, Delta's hub at Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport is now the third-largest in the company, now behind Salt Lake City.

Delta still accounts for more than 80 percent of CVG's flights.

*Wlwt.com, December 1, 2009*

### Former Registered Traveler program leader files for Chapter 11 pending a sale

Verified Identity Pass, which ceased operations this summer as the dominant operator of the Registered Traveler program and brought the expedited airport screening industry to a halt, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Tuesday as it seeks to close the imminent sale to an undisclosed "prospective buyer."

VIP in court documents said bankruptcy court protection offered the firm the best option for a sale, and according to a court affidavit dated Dec. 1 by James Moroney, VIP president and the "sole representative of the debtor's senior management," the company "expects to file a motion to sell within seven days."

*BTNonline.com, December 3, 2009*

## Continental Airlines launches mobile boarding passes at Frankfurt Airport

Continental Airlines expanded its mobile boarding pass service to Frankfurt Airport, becoming the first U.S. carrier to offer paperless boarding passes outside of the United States.

The service allows customers to receive boarding passes electronically on their cell phones or PDAs and eliminate the need for paper boarding passes.

*"Continental is continuing to lead our U.S. competitors by being the first to offer mobile boarding passes at an airport outside of the United States," said Mark Bergsrud, senior vice president of marketing programs and distribution for Continental. "Our customers have told us this is the type of self-service technology they want, and we are pleased to make it available at Frankfurt."*

Mobile boarding passes display a two-dimensional bar code along with passenger and flight information, and scanners at the security check point validate the authenticity. The technology prevents manipulation or duplication of the boarding passes and heightens security.

Continental was the first carrier to offer paperless boarding passes in the U.S. in a pilot program with the Transportation Security Administration that began in December 2007. The airline currently offers mobile boarding passes at 35 airports, including its hubs in New York, Houston and Cleveland, with plans to expand to more U.S. and international destinations.

Continental operates daily nonstop flights to Frankfurt from both its New York hub, Newark Liberty International Airport, and its Houston hub at Bush Intercontinental Airport.

*Traveldailynews.com, December 3, 2009*

## CBP announces changes for commercial frequent traveler program members

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced that members of its Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program will not be able to use their old FAST cards in passenger lanes effective January 5, 2010.

CBP has been issuing new cards for current FAST members since March 16. The new cards have enhanced security features that allow U.S. citizen cardholders to comply with the documentary requirements under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). All members are requested to activate their new cards within 30 days by going to <https://goes-app.cbp.dhs.gov/> and destroy their old ones.

If members have not received their new cards, they should go immediately to their local enrollment center to either pick up their new card or to apply to have a new card issued, which will take approximately 10 to 14 days to receive.

All old FAST cards will be deactivated January 5, 2010. CBP officers will allow a one-time entry into the U.S. to travelers with old FAST cards, but will seize the card from the traveler and refer the member to the Enrollment Center.

The Free and Secure Trade program is available to commercial drivers crossing both the northern and southern borders. Currently, the program has more than 92,000 members.

*Travemedia.com, December 3, 2009*


## Hotel finds new answer to flight delays

At least one hotel has come up with an answer to flight delays: The Buckingham Hotel in Manhattan is offering taxi costs back to the hotel after a cancelled or delayed flight.

A new room can be booked for up to \$50 off the taxi cost at current available room rates, the hotel says.

The promotion is called "In-Transit." Rates at the hotel start at \$199.

The promotion is good through March 31, subject to availability. The discount is valid for customers with flight delays of more than four hours and is not applicable for current reservations.



The Buckingham is a 100-suite boutique property located in the heart of midtown Manhattan.

*TravelMole.com, December 1, 2009*

## Air Canada will begin charging for a second checked bag

Air Canada will start charging economy-class passengers for a second checked bag on flights between Canada and several key international destinations, the airline said on Wednesday, matching a growing industry trend.

As of Jan. 19, Canada's biggest airline will levy the charge on flights to the United States, Europe and Israel. Several of Air Canada's U.S. and European rivals have already implemented such fees as airlines search for new sources of revenue during the global economic slowdown.

"This change in baggage policy to match our U.S. and European competitors is an important step as we work toward sustained profitability," said Ben Smith, Air Canada's executive vice president and chief commercial officer.

Economy-class passengers flying within Canada, or on flights to Mexico, the Caribbean, South and Central America, Asia and Australia, will still be able to check two bags without the extra charge, Air Canada said in a statement.

The airline will charge C\$30 (\$28.50) for a second bag on flights to the United States and C\$50 to Europe and Israel. The first checked bag is still free of charge.

That is less than major U.S. carriers, several of whom are charging for all checked bags.

The new fees, which apply to tickets purchased from Dec. 2 for travel from Jan. 19, will not apply to Air Canada and Star Alliance premium club members.

Air Canada, the world's 13th largest airline, teetered on the edge of bankruptcy earlier this year but is on a firmer footing now after raising more than C\$1 billion and reaching agreements with its unions.

(\$1=\$1.05 Canadian)

*USAToday.com, December 4, 2009*

## Our corporate clients can enjoy special holiday savings at AAA offices Dec 7<sup>th</sup> - Dec 12<sup>th</sup>

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For assistance with large quantity request, contact Kim Wiesmann at 513 762 3403 or by email at [kwiesmann@aaa-alliedgroup.com](mailto:kwiesmann@aaa-alliedgroup.com).

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