



# Tarmac Delay Emergency Contingency Plan



**Subject: Tarmac Delay Emergency Contingency Plan**  
**Effective: May 31, 2022**

Prepared by:

Handwritten signature of Loren J Lintner in blue ink.

Loren J Lintner  
Airport Operations Manager

Approved by:

Handwritten signature of Jacqueline Yaft in black ink.

Jacqueline Yaft  
Chief Executive Officer

This Tarmac Delay Emergency Contingency Plan is prepared by Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) pursuant to §42301 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. AUS submitted the original plan on May 10, 2012. The act requires that covered airports which include AUS to submit an updated for Department of Transportation by May 15, 2017. AUS is a commercial airport and this airport is used by an air carrier described in USC 42301(a)(1) for diversions. Questions regarding this plan can be directed to Loren Lintner at [loren.lintner@flyaustin.com](mailto:loren.lintner@flyaustin.com).

## **Airport Information**

AUS is a medium hub airport located in Central Texas. It serves as a primary diversion airport for Dallas/Fort-Worth International Airport and George Bush Intercontinental Airport and as well as Dallas Love and Houston Hobby Airports. The terminal has 33 contact gates. In addition to the gates, parking is available on the Maintenance Ramp. An Airport Duty Manager is available on a 24/7 basis at (512) 530-7550. Information is also available 24/7 through the Department of Aviation Communications Center at (512) 530-2242.

## **Purpose**

This plan describes how, during excessive tarmac delays and to the extent practicable, AUS will:

- Provide for the deplanement of passengers;
- Provide for the sharing of facilities and make gates available at the airport; and
- Provide a sterile area following excessive tarmac delays for passengers who have not yet cleared United States Customs & Border Protection (CBP).

## **Plan to Provide for the Deplanement of Passengers Following Excessive Tarmac Delays**

AUS owns some equipment needed to safely deplane passengers from air carrier aircraft in the event of emergencies. Only limited number of airport personnel are trained on the equipment to assist in the deplanement of passengers. The airport will provide a list of airlines, ground handlers, fixed base operators and others who may have the necessary equipment and personnel to safely deplane passengers to airlines that have incurred excessive tarmac delays as soon as practicable after receiving requests from such airlines at the contact number listed above.

## **Plan to Provide for the Sharing of Facilities and Make Gates Available in an Emergency**

Of the thirty-three 33 contact gates at AUS, twenty-one (21) gates are preferentially leased (four with shared use equipment) and require prior coordination with the controlling airline. During excessive tarmac delays, to the extent practicable, the airport will request tenant air carriers make gates and other facilities available to another air carrier seeking to deplane at a gate.

Twelve (12) of the remaining contact gates are Shared Use, controlled by the airport. These gates may be available on request for use by tenant air carriers or other air carriers, not represented at AUS, during an extended tarmac delay. AUS has six (6) narrow-body International gates that become restricted to four (4) gates when wide-body flights are on the ground. Prioritization of assigning any available shared use gates will include consideration of; length of delays, number of gates leased, size of aircraft, and international/domestic status.

Additionally, a large maintenance ramp may be available for use and air carriers may off-load passengers on the ramp using tenant owned equipment. Passengers may be transported to the terminal using tenant owned buses and additional buses may be available through the Department of Aviation with prior notice.

### **Plan to Provide a Sterile Area Following Excessive Tarmac Delays for Passengers Who Have Not Cleared United States Customs and Border Protection**

AUS has a defined FIS sterile area in the terminal that is capable of accommodating approximately 300 international passengers at a time. The intent is to only use this area to hold passengers if an International flight arrives after normal CBP hours, and CBP is unable to process passengers. During normal CBP hours, an International flight experiencing an excessive tarmac delay, will be coordinating with CBP as well as Airport Operations. To the extent practicable, efforts will be made to deplane and clear these passengers into the United States.

### **Public Access to the Emergency Contingency Plan**

AUS will provide public access to its emergency contingency plan by posting the document on its website at <https://www.austintexas.gov/airport/>