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City of Fort Worth, AECOM Hunt-Byrne-EJ Smith Commemorate Convention Center Expansion Milestone with Topping Out Ceremony

Fort Worth, TX (August 8, 2024) – The City of Fort Worth, together with construction management joint venture AECOM Hunt-Byrne-EJ Smith marked a major milestone in the expansion of the Fort Worth Convention Center with the project’s first official topping out ceremony today. This marks the latest development in Phase I of the project.

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Elected officials, business leaders and construction teams were on hand for the Topping Out as the highest structural steel beam was hoisted into place with the traditional fir tree riding on it. Speakers at the ceremony included Public Events Director Mike Crum, Visit Fort Worth Chairman Brian Newby, Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker and City Councilmember Elizabeth Beck.



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“Today is an exciting milestone as we continue to build on the success of our local tourism economy, said Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker. “The Fort Worth Convention Center expansion is more than just a building project, it is a pivotal component of Fort Worth's vision for a vibrant, economically robust future.

“The expanded Convention Center will bring increased capacity to host conferences from across the nation, bolstering our already impressive convention and tourism industry. One of the benefits of this project is it will bring an enhanced focus on pedestrian access, walkability and overall connectedness to all of downtown with the realignment of Commerce Street.”

Tourism is a \$3.3 billion industry for Fort Worth and one of its largest employers with more than 30,000 jobs. The convention center expansion is part of the city’s larger economic development strategy to attract meetings from across the state and nation.

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“Expanding our convention center means expanding opportunity for local business and creating jobs,” said Bob Jameson, president & CEO of Visit Fort Worth. “The word is out about Fort Worth and this center will enable us to keep up with growing demand to meet in our city.”

The expansion project will take place in two phases and the facility is remaining operational during both. Totalling 76,794 square feet, the \$95 million Phase I includes the construction of a new grand Southeast entrance, state-of-the-art food & beverage facilities, demolition of the 1980s annex to double loading docks, and realignment of Commerce Street to create a site pad for a future convention hotel.

The project emphasizes pedestrian access and improving the area's walkability and connection to the surrounding neighborhood, which includes the Water Gardens, the new Texas A&M Fort Worth campus, surrounding hotels and the Deco 969 residential tower.

"Our team has dedicated countless hours of their time and talent to this project, and I couldn't be prouder to thank them and celebrate their hard work," said Monte Thurmond, Executive Vice President/COO South Region, AECOM Hunt. "It's because of their collective skill that we stand here today. I know that, looking ahead to the next steps in this project, we're in great hands. Together, we will drive this remarkable project forward, bringing new life to this facility, the surrounding community, and the entire City of Fort Worth."

Phase I of the expansion is set to complete in 2026. Phase II, estimated at \$606 million, is in planning and design stage, with construction anticipated to begin in 2026 and run through early 2030. Information on the project, including Phase I renderings, can be found at <https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/public-events/convention-center/Convention-Center-Expansion>.

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About the Fort Worth Convention Center

Since 1968, the Fort Worth Convention Center & Arena has hosted thousands of major national and international events including sports, concerts, political rallies, conventions and trade shows. Owned and operated by the City of Fort Worth, the Convention Center was significantly expanded in 2003. With total meeting space of almost 400,000 square feet, it is the premier event space in downtown Fort Worth. Staff, floor plans, virtual tour and calendar of events are at <https://www.fortworth.com/convention-center/>.

Project Manager, Architects and Joint Venture CMAR

Broaddus & Associates, Inc. is serving as project manager in partnership with Elements of Architecture, Inc. [Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback & Associates, Inc. \(TVS\)](#), a global architectural design firm teaming with local firm [Bennett Partners](#), are delivering design and construction administration services. [AECOM Hunt](#), [Byrne Construction Services](#) and [E.J. Smith Construction](#) created a joint venture and are serving as Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for the first phase of the center's expansion.