

# PRESS RELEASE

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## ***Bradley International Airport Receives Recognition for Concession Upgrades***

**Windsor Locks, CONN – May 27, 2025** – The Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) is pleased to announce that concession upgrades at Bradley International Airport (BDL) were recently jointly named “Airport Business Project of the Year” by *Airport Business Magazine* in the publication’s 2025 Retail and Concessions category. BDL was recognized for the introduction of two prominent storefronts located in the terminal – Charter Oak Emporium and CT River Landing. The storefronts, created in partnership with concessionaire partner Paradies Lagardère, anchor each side of the main terminal and showcase local history.

In November 2023, BDL opened the new Charter Oak Emporium, which used to be a Travel Mart. The store’s front entrance showcases the replicas of two oak trees, which pay tribute to their symbolic significance in Connecticut dating back to 1662. According to history, the state’s royal charter was hidden inside the trunk of a large white oak so that it couldn’t be confiscated, taking away Connecticut’s self-governing rights.

In September 2024, the airside lobby CNBC store was transformed into CT River Landing. The name pays tribute to the Connecticut River, which is the origin of Connecticut’s name. Flowing through the central part of the state, it extends all the way to northern New Hampshire – making it the longest river in New England.

“The recognition of both Charter Oak Emporium and CT River Landing reflects our commitment to modernizing the terminal and creating a sense of place that’s reflective of Connecticut and the New England region,” said Michael W. Shea, Executive Director of the Connecticut Airport Authority. “Our strategy is to create unique concessions that resonate with passengers and make our community proud.”

The Airport Business Projects of the Year showcase transformative projects taking place at airports across North America among more than a dozen different categories, which, in addition to retail and concessions, includes security, technology, ground transportation, terminal construction, airfield operations and cargo.

In addition to the ongoing concession upgrades at BDL, the CAA is slated to unveil more than \$250 million in infrastructure updates to the traveling public starting in the summer of 2025.

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### About Bradley International Airport

Bradley International Airport (BDL) is the largest airport in Connecticut and the second largest in New England, serving more than 6.7 million passengers in 2024. Recognized nationally by leading travel publications for its ease of travel, BDL currently offers nonstop flights to more than 45 destinations on 12 different airlines across the U.S., Caribbean, Bermuda, and Ireland. BDL also offers a range of services for the inclusiveness of all travelers and boasts award-winning concessions. BDL is operated by the Connecticut Airport Authority, and its operations are entirely self-funded. The airport contributes nearly \$3.6 billion to the regional economy. For more information, visit [www.bradleyairport.com](http://www.bradleyairport.com).

### About The Connecticut Airport Authority

The CAA was established in 2011 to develop, improve, and operate Bradley International Airport and the state's five general aviation airports (Danielson, Groton-New London, Hartford-Brainard, Waterbury-Oxford, and Windham). The CAA Board consists of 11 members with a broad spectrum of experience in aviation-related and other industries, as well as government. The goal of the CAA is to make Connecticut's airports more attractive to new airlines, bring in new routes, and support Connecticut's overall economic development and growth strategy. For more info, visit [www.ctairports.org](http://www.ctairports.org)

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The image is a blue banner for the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA). On the left is the CAA logo, which consists of the letters 'CAA' in a large, white, sans-serif font, with a small airplane icon to the right. Below the logo, the text 'CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. To the right of the logo, a vertical white line separates it from a list of airports. The list includes: BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, DANIELSON AIRPORT, GROTON-NEW LONDON AIRPORT, HARTFORD-BRAINARD AIRPORT, WATERBURY-OXFORD AIRPORT, and WINDHAM AIRPORT. At the bottom of the banner, there is a dark blue bar with white text. On the left, it says '(860) 292-2107 | MEDIA@CTAIRPORTS.ORG'. On the right, it says 'VIEW CAA MEDIA GUIDE'.

CAA  
CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY

BRADLEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
DANIELSON AIRPORT  
GROTON-NEW LONDON AIRPORT  
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