

DEN Great Hall Phase 1

7 - Best Building Project - Specialty Contractor (Over \$10 Million)

Intermountain Electric, Inc

Named one of the top construction projects to watch in 2021, the Great Hall at Denver International Airport (DEN) came together with perseverance, flexibility and teamwork. Despite getting off to a rough start, IME is proud to have been a part of this project from start to finish and can't wait to unveil phase 1, which will give passengers at DEN an upgraded check-in experience.

IME has been involved in the Great Hall project since its conception in 2014. After years of planning and negotiation, construction for this \$770M design-build project finally began in 2018. Soon after work kicked off, challenges on the job brought public scrutiny and media attention. By November of 2019, DEN decided to go in a different direction, put the project on hold and sought a new general contractor to complete the work.

Hensel Phelps (HP) stepped in as the new general contractor assigned to lead the project and determine what scope of work would be included. With the uncertainty of future construction and a heightened awareness of previous oversights, the heat was on. Crews had already begun construction per the original plans, designed to provide a spacious, upgraded check-in area for passengers that would represent the great state of Colorado when they entered DEN. Now HP was challenged with defining how they could accomplish this with a reduced budget in phase 1.

As a contractor working at DEN for 30 years, IME was now unsure of their future with the Great Hall. They had built their team for this project with people who were dedicated to the airport. These were talented electricians with years of experience who knew the building, the layouts, DEN's expectations and had been involved since the beginning. IME knew this experience would help when it came to planning the scope of work and getting the job back up and running. This was an opportunity to keep the team engaged and have them help with the process of winning the Great Hall project, once again.

IME worked closely with HP and the designers to provide background on the previous work. They brought solutions to complicated design issues with their vast knowledge and experience at the airport. As the electrical contractor on site, IME took the responsibility, during this down time, to make sure DEN stayed functional. They kept systems, in the middle of stalled upgrades, up and running. IME's goal, when construction kicked off again, was to make sure the scope of work included everything needed to set DEN up for success with future projects. By working collaboratively and persevering, a new statement of work (SOW) was put into place and IME was awarded the contract.

Once the SOW was completed and crews were realigned, the IME team went to work. Working in an active airport required safety protocols, especially during a global pandemic. With an increase in COVID cases all over the world, safety was a top concern. In an effort to keep passengers and crew members safe, IME worked at night or early in the morning to reduce time spent around the general public. When work was done during normal business hours, it was behind a barricade. Although COVID caused many hurdles when working at a live airport, there was one upside. Due to restricted travel, DEN was not as populated as it normally would be. With fewer passengers at the airport, IME was able to work safely in public areas.

IME was proud to be a part of these renovations, which redesigned how customers would check in for their United and Southwest flights. New kiosks, designed to speed up the check in process, were being installed along with a new baggage system that would help elevate the customer experience.

LED lights and daylight harvest sensors added to the redesigned space, helping the airport to become more energy efficient and take advantage of the natural light in the building. New fire alarm and emergency communication systems were installed with the help of the Denver Fire Department. IME also wired rough ins for future restaurants and airline offices.

These projects were all completed while IME worked hard to make sure passengers could check into their flights without delay and rest assured knowing life safety systems were in place. Upgrading current systems and keeping them running at the same time was a challenge, but IME was aware of DEN's economic impact to the state and understood how important it was to keep the airport functional with reliable systems.

The crews onsite worked closely together, not only to collaborate on design and scheduling, but to talk about job safety. They held regular safety charettes and shared best practices for keeping people safe and identifying potential risks. IME presented at these meetings and shared information about equipment that would be energized and what other trades should lookout for when working around electrical equipment.

IME also shared a newly implemented process for new hires at this meeting. Every new employee at IME wears a yellow hard hat for their first 6 months of employment, when they are statistically most prone to have an incident. These new electricians are also mentored by a member of IME field supervision. The yellow hard hat gives a signal to every IME employee at DEN, alerting them to keep an eye out for their new co-worker.

Additionally, the new yellow hard hats feature IME's Safety QR Code, which can be scanned to access safety training classes and videos. This code also gives employees access to report safety observations

and contact safety management. The Safety QR Code has been a great success and has since been adopted by IME's parent company, Quanta Services.

Currently, the Great Hall project is substantially complete, with final turnover scheduled for November of 2021. IME could not be prouder of the perseverance, knowledge and teamwork put into place by their team at DEN and this project that has been years in the making.

Note from HP:

Intermountain Electric (IME) plays a vital role on the DEN Great Hall Project. Their knowledge of airport operations and project-first mentality were vital to keeping the project on schedule after the March 2020 reboot. From top down, Intermountain is aligned on the objective of performing their work safely, with high quality standards and meeting the project schedule. IME's project staff co-offices with the Owner, Architect and Hensel Phelps, giving the team the ability to meet face to face on short notice to collaborate or work through issues as they arise. When an unrelated schedule crunch presented itself, IME even jumped in to support other trades with like work and keep the project moving. For these reasons and many more, IME's efforts on DEN Great Hall continue to stand out as we all work together towards the completion of Phase 1!

Ian McCusker, HP Project Manager







