



The Big Move: Shuttle Carrier Aircraft Clears for Landing

Space Center Houston is partnering with 30 public, private and government agencies to move its Boeing 747 shuttle carrier aircraft (SCA) to the nonprofit center. Crawling at the speed of a person walking, 3 miles per hour, the jumbo jet will move nearly eight miles over the course of two nights, traveling nearly six miles on April 28 and two miles on April 29. It arrives early April 30 at Space Center Houston.

The SCA convoy will move only at night to maximize safety and minimize the impact on local residents, the traveling public and businesses. Workers will dismantle traffic lights, signs and utility poles. The public is encouraged to find alternate routes and to expect traffic delays. For an interactive route map and the latest information, visit www.spacecenter.org/bigmove.

The Big Move route and timeline

- **Monday, April 28:** Texas State Highway 3 from Scarsdale to NASA Parkway will close from 9 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. the next day. The convoy will remain at the midpoint during the day.
- **Tuesday, April 29:** NASA Parkway from Highway 3 to Saturn Lane will close from 9 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. This leg is expected to be the most challenging due to a large overpass sign that will need to be lifted for the SCA.
- **Wednesday, April 30:** The convoy arrives in early morning and the reassembly work begins.

How to move a 747 through city streets

The jumbo jet has been dismantled into seven major loads -- the fuselage, two wings, the vertical stabilizer, horizontal stabilizer, tail-cone sections and other assorted parts -- carried on four self-propelled trailers and three tractor-trailers. The convoy will be over 1,000 feet long when in motion.

- The largest section to be moved intact is the fuselage. It measures 25 feet wide and 35 feet tall. The length of 190 feet is roughly the height of Niagara Falls or as long as two NBA basketball courts.
- Combined, the total mass of the SCA weighs 159 tons, roughly the same weight of 5,390 third-grade students.
- It took 38 days to disassemble the plane and is expected to take 44 days to reassemble.

Once reassembled, the space shuttle replica *Independence* will be installed in the ferry configuration on top of the SCA. The resulting eight-story-tall complex will become a world-class attraction for visitors to enter the shuttle and SCA, an experience unique in the world. The public is encouraged to participate by texting "Shuttle747" to 41444 to pledge a donation, or contacting Space Center Houston's Development Department at 281-283-7707.



Manned Space Flight Education Foundation Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with an extensive science education program and a space museum. The cornerstone of its science education mission is Space Center Houston, one of the top attractions in the greater Houston area with nearly 800,000 visitors annually and the official visitor center of NASA Johnson Space Center. For more information, go to www.spacecenter.org.

SOURCE: Manned Space Flight Education Foundation Inc.