

CANTON

# U.S. Postal Service showcases new mail trucks, upgrades at Canton facility



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## Key Points

U.S. Postal Service officials on Aug. 13 showcased the improvements it has made at its Canton Sorting and Delivery Center.

The Canton facility has a new mail sorting system and new delivery vehicles.

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New [U.S. Postal Service vehicles](#) that can carry much more mail than before will be stopping at Canton area mailboxes within the next few months.

U.S. Postal Service officials on Aug. 13 showcased the new vehicles and other equipment upgrades that have been made at the [Canton Sorting and Delivery Center](#) at 2650 Cleveland Ave. NW.

The Canton facility, which employs 127 carriers and 41 other employees, handles roughly 6,000 pieces of mail a day for more than 48,000 addresses in five ZIP codes – 44705, 44709, 44714, 44720, and 44721 – in northern Canton, North Canton and Plain Township.

“The postal service is making a commitment here in Canton and across the nation to upgrade its facilities, vehicles, equipment and more,” said Mark Inglett, manager of strategic communications for the postal service. “This represents the

largest investment in infrastructure modernization in the history of the United States Postal Service.”

The local upgrades are part of the postal service’s [10-year Delivering for America plan](#), which began in 2021 and includes a \$40 billion investment nationwide.

The postal service, which relies on the sale of postage and postal products and services, has invested more than \$18.9 billion nationwide so far. Officials declined to disclose the amount of money that has been invested in the Canton facility.

Here are four things to know about the improvements at the Canton facility:

## **Larger USPS vehicles coming to Canton**

David Woloszyk, manager of fleet operations for the postal service's Midwest region, said the 90 postal service vehicles used by the Canton facility will be replaced.

He said 28 Ford E-Transit cargo vans that are used for non-curb side mail delivery already are in use in Canton. Another 58 Next Generation Delivery Vehicles, which will be used by carriers to deliver mail at the curb, will arrive within the next six months.

They replace the postal service's Long Live Vehicles that have been used for more than three decades, with some of the vehicles dating back to 1987.

The curbside delivery vehicles, manufactured by OshGosh Defense, are right-hand drive vehicles with cargo space capacity that can accommodate a standing 6-foot-4-inch carrier and that is two times larger than the current vehicles.

Woloszyk said the larger capacity will reduce the number of trips that carriers must make to the sorting center.

Woloszyk said the delivery vehicles, which will be available in gas and electric models, are equipped with automatic emergency braking, blind-spot detection and 360-degree cameras. He said they also include upgrades that were requested by the carriers, such as air conditioning, cupholders and improved lighting.

## **Canton sorting machine processes mail 14 times faster**

Workers at the Canton postal facility, which opened July 1, 1979, previously would sort mail and packages by hand by holding the parcel's bar code under an overhead scanner and then tossing the parcel into its corresponding bin. They could process between 270 and 300 pieces of mail an hour.

With the small delivery unit sorter that was installed in Canton more than a year ago, workers now place the mail parcels on a conveyor belt that moves them under a scanner and then slides them into one of the corresponding bins. It can process 4,300 pieces of mail an hour with an accuracy of 99.5%, postal officials said.

Other upgrades at the Canton facility include 86 new carrier cases, two new clerk letter cases, a new shrink wrap machine, eight new self-rising supervisor desks and updated bathrooms and breakroom.

Matthew Staley, sorting and delivery center implementation specialist for the postal service, said the agency has opened 123 sorting and delivery centers nationwide since 2021 and to open another 300 more over the next few years.

He said the centers and their upgraded equipment help to reduce costs, sort packages faster in a more ergonomically way for employees and will allow the postal service to reach more customers.

## **Canton mail still goes to Cleveland first**

Inglett said the upgrades will not change the route that mail takes to be processed.

For more than a decade, local mail has made a more than 50-mile trip to the regional mail processing center in Cleveland to be prepared for delivery before it returns to the Canton sorting and delivery center, where it is sorted for the 86 local carrier routes.

It means Christmas cards sent by North Canton residents to their neighbors still will go to Cleveland before delivery back in North Canton.

## **Postal worker union says more needs to be done**

Carmine Russo, president of the Canton Ohio Area Local American Postal Workers Union, said workers would rather the postal service focus on reducing its delivery times than buying new vehicles and updating breakrooms.

“It looks really nice and they spent a lot of money, but we can’t get the mail delivered and prices are going up,” said Russo, who did not attend the Aug. 13 showcase by postal service officials.

Russo, whose union represents 175 drivers, mechanics, maintenance workers and clerks in 80 locations in the ZIP codes that begin with 446 and 447, said mail volume was heavier three decades ago and yet the mail still was delivered to customers faster, often overnight.

“Our basic function is to get the mail delivered to the customer and we’re falling short,” said Russo, who retired from the postal service last year after 31 years. “... I don’t really think the customers care about how we got these pretty new vehicles.”

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