

## AIRPORT MARRIOTT GETTING \$18M MAKEOVER

Another Atlanta mega-hotel is getting a mega-makeover.

The Atlanta Airport Marriott, at 4711 Best Road in College Park, is about to get a \$14 million room renovation.

The room redo comes on the heels of a \$4 million rehab of the hotel's five restaurants, including Allie's Corner Cafe with Starbucks coffee and Krispy Kreme donuts, the Southside Lounge, Bentleys Steakhouse and the sushi-themed The Lobby Bar.

The hotel is the seventh-largest in Atlanta, with 628 rooms and 10 suites. It's owned by Bethesda, Md.-based Host Hotels & Resorts Inc. (NYSE: HST) and managed by Marriott International Inc. (NYSE: MAR), also based in Bethesda.

The last room renovation at the 14-acre property was a \$3.5 million bedding upgrade in 1999, said the hotel's director of marketing, Michelle Burkett.

The room renovations are set to be completed in May and will include granite-topped desks, dressers and nightstands; bathrooms with porcelain tiles and a granite-topped sink; and Marriott Revive bedding.

New technology will include flat-panel TVs with an iPod connection in every room and wireless Internet access.

The hotel is the largest in the airport area.

Less than half a mile from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and near the Georgia International Convention Center, the hotel's average occupancy is in the mid- to high-60s, Burkett said. That could get a boost from the new people-mover system that will connect the airport to the convention center.

"We're absolutely looking forward to the people mover. It will help lift the entire market, and will put it on the map in terms of being a great meeting and business destination."