Biometrics are showing up in airports and border crossing points across the country, promising to enhance security, as well as improve and expedite air travel.

However, opinions on the topic are split.

**MYTH:** Airlines will keep passengers’ identities and facial data on-file.

**FACT:** Airlines don’t want to store any more personally identifiable information (PII) than needed because of IT burden, expenses and liability.

**MYTH:** Facial recognition is aimed at replacing all current security measures.

**FACT:** Secure documents like digital passports, traditional and other digital IDs will still be used. TSA agents will continue to manually inspect physical identity and travel documents for the near future.

**MYTH:** Facial recognition could lead to Big Brother scenarios in airports and beyond.

**FACT:** Guardrails are in place to deter government overstep. For example, U.S. citizens can opt out of the Traveler Verification Service (TVS) boarding process. If you are not already known and identified by a facial recognition system, you cannot be identified or matched if you appear in its field of view.

**MYTH:** The technology isn’t currently reliable enough to be trusted.

**FACT:** Facial recognition has been fine-tuned in controlled scenarios and put through rigorous real-world field tests. In less than five seconds, facial recognition has shown a 99.44% successful acquisition rate.

---

New developments in AI and machine learning will continue to advance facial recognition’s capabilities and increase accuracy.

Facial recognition may help increase airport security. Separate the facts from the myths to consider, debate, discuss and form an informed opinion on biometrics in travel.