



For Release
May 5, 2014
10:00am

American Airlines to Begin Service from Bismarck Airport
Daily Service from Bismarck to Dallas (DFW) and Chicago (ORD) to Begin in October

Bismarck (ND)—American Airlines, in cooperation with the City of Bismarck and the Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce, announced today that the airline will add daily, direct flights to Dallas and Chicago from the Bismarck Airport beginning October 1, 2014. The announcement marks the second successful public-private partnership between the city and the Chamber in recruiting new air service.

"We are positioning Bismarck-Mandan as the destination community in the upper Midwest," said Mayor John Warford. "The addition of service to Dallas will serve our state's burgeoning energy industry and the Chicago route creates an additional eastern connection for business and leisure travelers. We believe the new service options will add to the continued growth in passenger boardings at the Bismarck Airport."

In early 2014, the city of Bismarck received a Department of Transportation, Small Community Air Service Development Grant for \$500,000 to incentivize the addition of air service to Texas and Chicago. The grant required a private sector match of \$500,000. Community support for the program has been essential in reaching this goal. Both large and small members of the Chamber have pledged to match the grant in amounts ranging from \$2,500 to \$100,000 over the course of the two-year contract.

"In our recent strategic planning, members were clear that enhancing our ability to attract and retain employees is a priority," said Kelvin Hullet, President of the Chamber. "Providing additional air service is another tool to entice people to live and work in our community. It also positions us as a business destination for companies looking to do business in our dynamic economy."

The \$1,000,000 minimum revenue guarantee (MRG) is similar to the model used previously. The MRG mitigates carrier startup financial losses during the first year of service.

Among the many employers supporting the effort, Basin Electric Power Cooperative was instrumental in promoting the effort. Over the next 5-years Basin will need to recruit many new employees to replace those who are retiring. Paul Sukut, President and CEO of Basin said, "For our business and others in the community, travel options are essential when recruiting employees from around the nation. Potential employees frequently ask about the ease of getting back to see family in other parts of America."

The new service is slated to begin October 1st. Advance tickets are now on sale at www.aa.com.

End

