



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Order 2006-3-14

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 15th day of March, 2006

Served: March 20, 2006

Essential air service at

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

Docket OST-2006-23933

under 49 U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*

ORDER

Summary

By this order, the Department is allowing Trans States Airlines, Inc., d/b/a American Connection, to suspend its unsubsidized service at Springfield, Missouri.

Background

On February 10, 2006, Trans States filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend its unsubsidized scheduled air service at Springfield, Missouri, on or after May 11. Trans States currently operates two round trips each weekday and three each weekend to St. Louis with 30-seat Jetstream 41 aircraft.¹ Springfield also receives regional jet services to numerous destinations, including Chicago, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Denver and Memphis, by a variety of carriers.

Decision

We will allow Trans States to suspend its service at Springfield at the end of its 90-day notice period.

Springfield receives a substantial amount of jet services to other hubs in addition to the turboprop service to St. Louis that Trans States has been operating, so the community's services will thus continue to be well beyond the level that the essential air service program was designed to ensure.² Under the circumstances, we will allow Trans States to suspend its services at Springfield at the end of its 90-day notice period.

Before Trans States suspends service, however, we expect it to contact all travelers holding reservations for travel after its suspension date, to notify them of its suspension and the

¹ See the Appendix for a map.

² The essential air service program's maximum capacity guarantee is 67 seats a day.

availability of other service at the community, and to secure alternate air transportation for such travelers or to provide them with a refund of their ticket price, without penalty, if requested.

This order is issued under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.56a(f).

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We allow Trans States Airlines, Inc., d/b/a American Connection, to suspend its service at Springfield, Missouri, at the end of its 90-day notice period; and
2. We will serve copies of this order on the mayor and airport manager of Springfield, Missouri, and Trans States Airlines, Inc., d/b/a American Connection.

By:

MICHAEL W. REYNOLDS
Acting Assistant Secretary for Aviation
and International Affairs

(SEAL)

*An electronic version of this document is available
on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>*

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

St. Louis •

• Springfield