

Order 2006-6-39
Served: July 6, 2006



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

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 30th day of June, 2006

Essential Air Service at

JOPLIN, MISSOURI

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

DOCKET OST-2006-23932

ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

Summary

By this order, the Department of Transportation extends the service obligation of Trans States Airlines, Inc., d/b/a American Connection (Trans States), at Joplin, Missouri, for an additional 30 days, through August 11, 2006.

Background

On February 10, 2006, Trans States filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend its subsidized service at Joplin as of May 11. By Order 2006-3-4, March 6, 2006, the Department prohibited Trans States from suspending service and requested proposals, with subsidy if necessary, from carriers interested in providing replacement service. As required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we have extended Trans States' service obligation for additional 30-day periods, the latest through July 12, 2006, by Order 2006-6-1.

By Order 2006-5-11, May 12, 2006, the Department selected Air Midwest to provide subsidized essential air service at Joplin for a new, two-year period, beginning when the carrier inaugurates service, which is tentatively scheduled for August 1.

Because the carrier transition will not have taken place by the end of the current hold-in period, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Trans States' service obligation at Joplin for an additional 30 days, or until Air Midwest actually begins service, whichever occurs first.

This order is issued under authority assigned in 14 CFR 385.12(k)(5).

ACCORDINGLY,

1. We require Trans States to maintain its current level of essential air service at Joplin, Missouri, consisting of 14 nonstop round trips a week to St. Louis, with 30-seat Jetstream 41

aircraft, for an additional 30 days, through August 11, 2006, or until Air Midwest actually begins service, whichever occurs first.¹

2. We direct Trans States to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documentation to support subsidy claims for payment, and to preserve and maintain such documentation in a manner that readily permits its audit and examination by representatives of the Department. Such documentation shall be retained for seven years or until the Department indicates that the records may be destroyed, whichever comes first. Copies of flight logs for aircraft sold or disposed of must be retained. The carrier may forfeit its compensation for any claim that is not supported under the terms of this order;

3. Docket OST-2006-23932, will remain open until further order of the Department; and

4. We will serve copies of this order on the mayor and airport manager of Joplin, MO, and Trans States Airlines.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of this order under the Department's Regulations, 14 CFR 385.50, must file such petitions within ten (10) days after the date of service of this order.

This order will be effective immediately, and the filing of a petition for review shall not preclude its effectiveness.

By:

TODD M. HOMAN
Acting Director
Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

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

¹ In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Trans States' service obligation for successive 30-day periods, as necessary, until suitable replacement service actually begins.