



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

413 098

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

September 6, 2006

Docket OST-2006-25228

The Honorable Robert E. Bruchey, II
Mayor
City of Hagerstown
1 East Franklin Street
Hagerstown, Maryland 21742

Dear Mayor Bruchey:

I would like to update you on the essential air service situation at Hagerstown and give you an opportunity to submit any comments, if you wish.

As you know, by Order 2006-7-24, issued July 27, 2006, the Department prohibited Mesa Air Group, Inc., d/b/a Air Midwest (Air Midwest), from suspending its service and requested proposals from carriers interested in providing replacement service. Air Midwest was the only carrier to submit a proposal.

In addition to our brief description below, the proposal as well as Order 2006-7-24, can be viewed online on the Department's Dockets Management System website by doing a "Simple Search" on Docket 25228 at: <http://dms.dot.gov/search/searchFormSimple.cfm>.

The carrier submitted two service options. Under both options, service would be provided nonstop to Pittsburgh, using 19-seat Raytheon/Beechcraft B-1900D aircraft and would be operated as USAirways Express. Option 1 proposes to provide two nonstop round trips a day at an annual subsidy rate of \$854,452; Option 2 proposes to provide three nonstop round trips a day at an annual subsidy rate of \$1,288,513.

My purpose in writing at this time is to request any final comments you might have on the carrier's subsidy proposal before we submit a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary on the carrier selection issue.

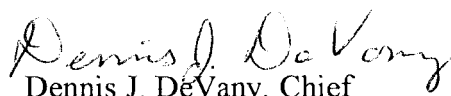
We request that you review this information as expeditiously as possible and submit any comments you may have on the carrier selection case at your earliest convenience, but in any case no later than September 20, 2006. We will carefully consider your comments before we submit a recommendation to the Assistant Secretary for a decision. If you have any questions, or if you find that you need additional time to draft your comments, please let us know.

Please send an original and one copy of your comments to me at the following address:

Essential Air Service Division, X-53
Room 6401
Office of Aviation Analysis
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

We would appreciate it if you would send an advance copy of your comments by fax to 202-366-7638, or by email to dennis.devany@dot.gov and renee.williams@dot.gov. You should also send a copy to Air Midwest. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Renée Williams of my staff on 202-366-1058.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. DeVany, Chief
EAS and Domestic Analysis Division, X-53
Office of Aviation Analysis