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# News Release

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## **New Routes Help Detroit Metro Airport Extend Record Year for Air Service Growth**

*~Two new routes on Spirit announced today, and American Airlines scheduled to resume important Washington-National service*

**DETROIT (July 30, 2014):** Beginning today, consumers will be able to buy low-fare tickets non-stop to Atlanta and New Orleans from Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) on Spirit Airlines by going to [www.spirit.com](http://www.spirit.com). The new daily flights start on November 2<sup>nd</sup> for Atlanta (ATL) and November 6<sup>th</sup> for New Orleans (MSY). These represent the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> new Spirit routes from DTW since January, and add to a great year of momentum for air service development in Detroit. Spirit added Minneapolis as a seasonal route earlier in the year and Kansas City service begins August 7<sup>th</sup>. For a full copy of the Spirit Airlines announcement, see attached news release.

Detroit Metro Airport is also celebrating another air service success with American Airlines. Following the approval of its merger with US Airways, earlier this Spring, American Airlines announced that a number of airports would lose service from its Washington-National hub as a result of changes required by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to increase overall air service competition.

Unfortunately, Detroit Metro Airport was among the airports US/AA initially slated to cease service from DCA, and effective August, 2014 all US/AA frequencies between these two cities are scheduled to stop, leaving only one airline providing non-stop service between Detroit and Washington-National Airport. After a number of conversations between American Airlines and the Airport Authority management team, American recently elected to resume the non-stop service effective November 6<sup>th</sup> with four roundtrips per day. The new flights began being sold earlier this month and are on sale now at [www.usairways.com](http://www.usairways.com).

“Making sure our passengers have more than one option to such an important airport for our community was definitely a priority for us,” said Airport Authority CEO Tom Naughton. “Washington-National would have been the largest market from Detroit to be operated by only one carrier, but thanks to the hard work and efforts of our Air Service Development and Government Affairs teams, we will maintain competition on this critical route.”

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Detroit has seen two new airlines enter DTW this year with low-cost JetBlue adding flights to Boston in March and Alaska Airlines opening DTW with daily service to Seattle starting September 4<sup>th</sup>. The flood of new routes at DTW this year also includes the Spirit service to Atlanta, GA; New Orleans, LA; Kansas City, MO; and Minneapolis, MN; Frontier Airlines to Wilmington, DE (seasonal) and Washington-Dulles, VA (starts September 8<sup>th</sup>); and Delta service to Rochester, MN (starts September 14<sup>th</sup>). Delta also increased its London service, giving DTW its first ever double-daily option to Heathrow for the Summer starting back in June, and is bulking-up on its largest aircraft in Detroit starting this Fall. Detroit Metro Airport will have four daily Boeing 747-400 flights to Asia, the most since 2008. Seoul, Shanghai, Nagoya, and Tokyo will all see the jumbo jets on their Detroit flights.

“It’s been a great year for us in terms of new service and the number of new low-cost carrier-routes this year from DTW. The new routes are really a win for both our air travelers *and* our community,” said Joe Cambron, Director of Air Service Development for the airport. “It’s been at least a decade since DTW had such a strong year for new routes, and we will continue working on giving our customers as many options as possible for their travel needs.”

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*Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) welcomed more than 32 million passengers in 2013 and is one of the world’s leading air transportation hubs. With service from 13 scheduled passenger airlines, Michigan’s largest airport offers more than 1,100 flights per day to and from nearly 150 non-stop destinations on four continents. In 2010, DTW ranked highest in overall customer satisfaction among large airports in the J.D. Power and Associates North America Airport Satisfaction Study. With two award-winning passenger terminals, six jet runways, and an onsite AAA Four-Diamond Westin Hotel, DTW is among the world’s most efficient, customer friendly and operationally capable airports in North America. DTW is operated by **Wayne County Airport Authority**, which also operates nearby **Willow Run Airport**—an important corporate, cargo and general aviation facility. **The Airport Authority is entirely self-sustaining and does not receive tax dollars to support airport operations.** Visit [www.metroairport.com](http://www.metroairport.com) for more information.*