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Air Choice One gets contract for MC flights

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MASON CITY | The federal Department of Transportation Monday awarded a two-year Essential Air Service contract for Air Choice One to serve the Mason City Municipal Airport.

The St. Louis-based carrier is set to begin service out of the Mason City Municipal Airport in early November.

The carrier is also introducing a new hub to North Iowa passengers -- Chicago O'Hare International Airport, the second-largest international airport in the United States. Previous service on Great Lakes Airline had been through Minneapolis.

"We are very happy with the decision of the DOT and cannot wait to grow our presence in Iowa. We are eager to introduce Mason City to Air Choice One's dependable service," Air Choice CEO Shane Storz said in a press release.

With the introduction to O'Hare, "we hope the Mason City community and the surrounding communities will once again come out and support their local airport," Storz said. "Thank you to all of those throughout the community that have supported our effort to restore a first-class connection to a great airport in Chicago."

The Mason City Airport Commission last month recommended Air Choice One.

"We are extremely pleased with the announcement from the United States Department of Transportation and we are looking forward to a great working relationship with Air Choice One for the next two-year period," said Pamela Osgood, Mason City airport manager.

She said Air Choice One's service to Chicago O'Hare "will provide Mason City and the surrounding communities with excellent access to the national air transportation system."

Osgood said the new hub option "is an opportunity for the community to support their local airport to ensure air service remains viable in the years to come for the North Iowa region."

Air Choice One has had EAS contracts in Burlington; Decatur, Illinois; Ironwood, Michigan; and

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Jonesboro, Arkansas. It operates a second hub at St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

Mason City's commercial air service will be provided on the Cessna Grand Caravan, turbine-powered aircraft with leather seating and spacious leg room, according to the press release from Air Choice One.

More information will be released in the following weeks, including the fare structure and flight schedule for the Mason City airport.

Air Choice One was founded in 1979 and is a family owned and operated organization.

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Tags Shane Storz, Mason City Airport Commission, Air Choice One, Mason City, Mason City Municipal Airport, Department Of Transportation, United States Department Of Transportation, Essential Air Service, Mason City Airport, O Hare International Airport, Pamela Osgood, Chicago O Rsqquo Hare International Airport, St. Louis, Chicago

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