

News Release



DETROIT METRO • WILLOW RUN
WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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New Low-Fare Airline, *Independence Air*, to Add 400 Daily Seats between Detroit and Washington D.C.

~ Carrier will begin serving Detroit Metro Airport in August with eight daily nonstop flights to Washington Dulles (IAD) airport

MAY 19, 2004 - DETROIT, MI: A new low-fare airline with a bold new name announced today that Detroit Metro Airport is one of 35 airports selected for nonstop service to and from the nation's capital at Washington Dulles (IAD) airport later this summer. *Independence Air*, a former United Airlines commuter carrier, which operated as Atlantic Coast Airlines, will begin serving the Detroit-Washington D.C. market on August 23, 2004 with eight daily arrivals and departures, according to a airline news conference held in Washington D.C. this morning.

“We are very pleased that Independence Air has chosen Detroit for eight daily round-trips to Washington Dulles,” said Wayne County Airport Authority CEO Lester Robinson. “One principle holds true, whether you are shopping for groceries, automobiles or air travel. More competition usually works out better for the consumer in terms of quality, convenience and cost.”

“Our air service development people expended quite a bit of energy to secure this service,” continued Robinson. “ We are proud of them and excited about adding another low-fare carrier to the list of scheduled airlines providing service to Detroit air travelers.”

Flying quiet, sleek, 50-seat *Bombardier CRJ* regional jet aircraft, *Independence Air* plans to create the largest low-fare hub in North America at Washington Dulles International airport, and plans to have over 600 daily departures systemwide by the end of this summer.

For reservations and general information, travelers can visit www.flyi.com or call the airline's toll free number, (800) FLY-FLYi.

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport is undergoing one of the most dramatic transformations of any airport anywhere. In addition to 97-gate Edward H. McNamara Terminal / Northwest World Gateway, the airport has also recently opened a new 10,000 ft. runway, a new airport south access road, John Dingell Dr., and a new 400-room luxury-class Westin Hotel at the airport. With the creation of the new Wayne County Airport Authority, and future terminal projects planned, Metro Airport is quickly positioning itself as one of the finest air transportation gateways in the world.

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