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News Release

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Detroit Gains Second Daily Flight to China

The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) has been advised that China Southern Airlines will fly daily non-stop flights between Beijing, China and Detroit beginning in March 2009. This announcement comes on the heels of a similar announcement by Northwest Airlines that they have been awarded tentative authority to fly daily non-stop flights between Detroit and Shanghai, also in March 2009.

China Southern, the largest airline in the People's Republic of China, was awarded authority to fly the Detroit-Beijing route by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC). Representatives of China Southern have now confirmed their intention to fly the route with WCAA executives at an airport/airline conference in Stockholm.

"This is the culmination of a lot of hard work by our air service development team and also by Wayne County," said Jack Vogel, Senior VP Business Development. "After several meetings and much time spent carefully building relationships, we have brought good news from China back to Michigan."

"After Shanghai, Beijing is the most desired destination for travelers from Detroit," said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. "There is a growing demand for air service as trade and commerce between Michigan and China builds. This frequent and reliable new international air service not only creates jobs at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, but also makes the Detroit region a more attractive location for business development."

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano was pleased with the announcement. "This new service fits in very nicely with Wayne County's ongoing Aerotropolis planning and development efforts," said Ficano. "With both Wayne County and the Airport Authority focused on building relationships in China, our prospects for participating in the new world economy look very encouraging."

China Southern Airlines, with connecting hubs in Beijing and Guangzhou, China, carried more than 49 million passengers in 2006. They intend to use a Boeing 787 Dreamliner on the new route.

“We will continue meeting and building relationships with airlines at home and around the world to bring Detroit and Michigan the air service we need for the future,” said Vogel.

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