



City-County Building
300 West Ash Street
P.O. Box 736
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DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEB 17 2010

February 17, 2010

Mr. Todd M. Horman
Director
Office of Aviation Analysis
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Essential Air Service at Salina, Kansas
Docket DOT-OST 2002 - 11376**

Dear Mr. Horman:

The Salina community welcomes the opportunity to submit comments regarding proposals from air carriers interested in providing essential air service at Salina, Kansas. A work group comprised of representatives of the City of Salina, Saline County, the Salina Airport Authority, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, Kansas State University at Salina and the Kansas National Guard has reviewed all four proposals received by the U.S. DOT. The Salina work group also met with representatives of Sovereign Air, SeaPort Airlines and Great Lakes Airlines.

After much deliberation, it is the opinion of local political and civic leaders that the SeaPort Airlines proposal will best meet Salina's scheduled air service needs. The SeaPort proposal provides DOT the opportunity to select an air carrier that will provide the following:

1. Greater frequency of flights for the Salina market with three nonstop round trips a day (18 a week) to MCI.
2. An aircraft (the Pilatus PC-12) that is "right-sized" for the Salina market.
3. Access to the Kansas City hub that is served by a low-cost airline.
4. An SLN-MCI fare structure that will encourage area residents to fly rather than drive.
5. An aggressive marketing and customer service plan for the Salina market.
6. The availability of a military/government fare to better facilitate air travel to and from the growing Kansas National Guard's Great Plains Joint Training Center.
7. An airline that will be actively involved in community events and contribute to economic growth.

CITY COMMISSION
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In submitting these comments, Salina requests that the U.S. DOT waive the EAS program requirements for service at Salina with a multi-engine aircraft of at least 15 passenger seats. Salina agrees to SeaPort EAS flight operations in the 9-seat Pilatus PC-12 aircraft.

Salina leadership is committed to partner with SeaPort to make significant improvements to our local air service. Our joint efforts will result in increased passenger enplanements and a positive economic airport to our region.

Thank you for considering our comments as your office finalizes the 2010 – 2012 EAS contract for Salina.

Respectfully submitted,

CITY OF SALINA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Luci Larson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

M. Luci Larson
Mayor

MLL/TFR/ge

cc: Governor Mark Parkinson
Senator Sam Brownback
Senator Pat Roberts
Congressman Jerry Moran