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Delta Connection to Begin Salt Lake City Service

Delta Airlines announced they will initiate Sioux Falls-Salt Lake City service on June 8. The once daily service will be operated by Delta Connection flying a 50-seat CRJ200 jet.

Salt Lake City is Delta's fastest growing hub. Delta currently operates more than 300 daily flights to 100 non-stop destinations from Salt Lake City. The new Sioux Falls-Salt Lake City service will give local travelers a new option for traveling westbound. In addition, Salt Lake City is Delta's biggest gateway to Hawaii with non-stop service to Honolulu, Maui and Kona; is the only Delta hub to offer year-round service to Alaska; and is a growing gateway to Mexico with non-stop service to Cancun, Los Cabos, Mazatlan, and Puerto Vallarta.

The new flight will leave Sioux Falls at 8:50 am. Return service arrives at 8:05 pm.

In conjunction with the announcement of new service, Delta Airlines is offering some very attractive introductory fares. Sioux Falls travelers can fly round-trip to Salt Lake City for as little as \$258 plus taxes. The introductory round-trip fare to Phoenix is \$278 plus taxes. Sacramento is \$318 plus taxes round-trip while the round-trip Albuquerque fare is an amazing \$238 plus taxes. Other destinations are available.

To qualify for the introductory fares tickets must be purchased by March 21. Travel must be completed by August 1. These tickets are nonrefundable.

Air Service Development Contract Renewed

The Sioux Falls Regional Airport Authority recently renewed the air service development contract with Sixel Consulting for two more years. Sixel Consulting is a nationwide air service consultant based in Eugene, OR. They were instrumental in gaining America West service to Phoenix and Allegiant Air service to Orlando from Sioux Falls.

An air service consultant studies a community's air service needs and finds an airline that may serve those needs. The consultant then presents the community's case for service to the airline.

Mark Sixel, President of Sixel Consulting, is currently studying the need for additional east-bound service as well as service from Sioux Falls to the south and southeast. Among the list of airlines Mr. Sixel is considering presenting to are Continental, Frontier, Midwest Express and American.

February Boardings Break Record

For the second straight month, boardings at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport set a new monthly record. A total of 29,303 passengers enplaned during the month breaking the previous record for a February set in 1996 when 29,243 passengers enplaned.

January's boardings also set a record at 30,348.

The February boardings were up 8.6% over last year.

Northwest Airlines and Northwest Airlink led local airlines with a 41.9% market share, followed by United Express at 40.0%, Allegiant Air at 10.6%, Delta Connection at 3.7% and America West Express at 3.7%.