

News Release

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Grand Junction Regional Airport: 2010 and Beyond

Although year over year passenger enplanements were down by just over 4%, 2010 proved to be a successful year for the Grand Junction Regional Airport. Grand Junction ended the year with 221,826 passenger boarding's (enplanements). Quarter 4 of 2010 was strong for air travel at Grand Junction Regional Airport. Passenger Enplanements for Q4 2010 were up from Q4 2009 by 9.4%, from 52,926 to 57,917 total passengers.

All the commercial airlines that service Grand Junction, with the exception of American Eagle Airlines, enjoyed a record year for passenger enplanements. "The slight decrease in annual enplanements were more of a result of lost capacity, then a result of people not flying." Stated Director of Aviation, Rex Tippetts. In 2009, American Eagle, with service direct to Dallas/Fort-Worth, operated an additional flight for four (4) months and Frontier Airlines operated daily flights direct to Denver for the majority of 2009, until filing for bankruptcy and ceasing operations in late September 2009.

So what can you expect to see in 2011? New and increased air service.

Grand Junction was one of the many communities that benefited from the merger of United Airlines and Continental Airlines, the new combined carrier announced new service direct from Grand Junction to Houston. This service is scheduled to begin May 2011.

American Eagle is adding a third daily flight direct to Dallas/Fort Worth, beginning February 10, 2011. "With the only nonstop service from Grand Junction to our largest hub in Dallas/Fort Worth, American Eagle is delighted to add a third daily nonstop starting in February," said Gary Foss, Vice President – Planning and Marketing for American's regional network. "Thanks to the community and their unwavering support, our customers on the Western Slope will now have even more convenient options throughout the day to connect to American's global network." American Eagle will have daily flights departing Grand Junction daily at 6:35 a.m., 11:25 a.m., and 4:40 p.m.

"The airport's achievement of additional air service for the upcoming year is quite an accomplishment considering the many challenges facing the aviation industry. As we look toward the future, our focus at Grand Junction Regional Airport will remain on security, convenience and customer service. Thank you to everyone who continues to support your local Airport." Stated Rex Tippetts, Director of Aviation for the Airport.

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