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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“SLE to SLC,” Commercial Air Service Arrives in Salem

The long drive to Portland International Airport will soon become an ordeal of the past for Salem area travelers. Delta Airlines today announced service from Salem to Salt Lake City, Utah, opening up the gateway to more than 100 non-stop domestic and international destinations.

“A lot of people have worked long and hard to make this dream become a reality,” said Mayor Janet Taylor. “Our Airport Advisory Board has had this as their top priority for years and has worked closely with our Airport Administrator, Alan Alexander, to make sure McNary Field would be ready to receive airline service. We couldn’t have accomplished this without the support of our Congressional delegation or without the level of support that this community has demonstrated. We, especially, owe the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce a major thank you for managing the travel bank campaign that truly demonstrated our level of commitment.”

Two flights a day to Salt Lake City and back will begin on June 7. The 6:30 a.m. flight to Salt Lake arrives at 9:15 a.m. and the 1:15 p.m. flight arrives at 4:00 p.m. Flights to Salem leave Salt Lake at 11:30 a.m., arriving at 12:25 p.m., and at 9:05 p.m., arriving in Salem at 10:00 p.m. Delta will be flying 50-passenger Canair CJ200 jets.

More

The search for a commercial air partner began over six (6) years ago. In 2004, the City of Salem received a \$500,000 Small Community Air Service Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The grant guarantees funding for the first year of commercial air operation. In 2005, Delta became the focus for Salem's recruitment efforts when Mayor Janet Taylor and other community leaders traveled to Atlanta to meet with Delta officials to promote Oregon's capital city as a great place to do business.

To demonstrate the commitment of the Salem community, a travel bank was established under the leadership of the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce. Nearly 100 businesses and individuals contributed \$556,500 as a guarantee that they would use the airline service during the coming year. In essence they purchased their tickets in advance, as their contributions will be used to cover their tickets when they fly during the course of the year.

Today, the Salem Airport is celebrating the opening of the new Passenger Security and Staging Area. The 3,600 square foot facility will house the security check stations and seating for passengers. Other security enhancements to the airport will be undertaken as part of the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) program.