

A BUSINESS TRAVEL UPDATE FROM HESS CORPORATE TRAVEL 150 NORTH MAIN STREET BOUNTIFUL UT 84010 – (801) 292-8687

Airlines

FAA Institutes Temporary Measures to Ease LaGuardia Congestion

The Federal Aviation Administration is implementing temporary measures to control congestion at New York's LaGuardia Airport. The temporary measures permit 75 scheduled and six unscheduled arrivals and departures per hour from 6 a.m. through 9:59 p.m., from Monday to Friday, and the same number of hourly flights from noon to 9:59 p.m. on Sunday. The FAA has regulated traffic into LaGuardia over the past 40 years because of the airport's limited capacity and high demand because of its proximity to Manhattan. (Source: FAA).

JetBlue to Give Passengers More Space on Its A320s

JetBlue Airways will remove a row of seats from its Airbus 320 fleet and reconfigure the cabin with at least 36-inch pitch in rows 1-11, and at least 34-inch pitch in rows 12-25. Aircraft modifications should be complete by March 2007. (Source: JetBlue press release).

American Upgrades Boeing 767-200

American Airlines is spending \$20 million to upgrade its Boeing 767-200 aircraft. The upgrade includes updated First and Business Class seats, a lighter and brighter cabin interior, and new audio and video on-demand personal entertainment devices in First and Business Class. The upgrade also increases the number of First Class Seats from 9 to 10 on each aircraft. American will enhance its lounge admittance policy in conjunction with the opening of the new Flagship Lounge and second Admirals Club lounge at the new JFK terminal by this summer. First Class passengers flying on transcontinental routes on three-class aircraft will have access to American's Flagship Lounges, usually reserved for international premium class customers. In addition, Business Class passengers traveling on transcontinental routes on three-class aircraft will have access to American's Admirals Club lounges. American has a Flagship Lounge facility and Admirals Club lounge at Los Angeles International Airport and a new Admirals Club in Concourse C in New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. (Source: American Airlines press release).

Delta Adds Boston Service

Delta Air Lines this spring will offer business travelers more choices for nonstop service between Boston's Logan International Airport and key business markets throughout the Northeast. Delta and Montana-based Big Sky Airlines have signed a memorandum of understanding for Big Sky to operate Delta Connection carrier service beginning in the second quarter of 2007. As part of the agreement, Big Sky initially will fly eight 19-seat Beechcraft 1900D aircraft, an 18 percent increase in departures. Specific routes and frequencies will be announced later this winter. (Source: Delta press release).

U.S. Customs Expands Trusted Traveler Program

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is expanding NEXUS trusted traveler-crossing privileges to all land, marine and air points of entry where NEXUS locations are currently in place. In addition, NEXUS will provide processing locations at additional airports in Canada throughout 2007. NEXUS is a joint program with the Canada Border Services Agency that allows pre-screened and approved travelers faster processing at designated highway lanes in high-volume border crossing locations, at a NEXUS kiosk at Vancouver International Airport, and at certain marine reporting locations in the Great Lakes and Seattle regions. NEXUS membership also fulfills the travel document requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, which will require a passport or other secure travel document by all U.S. and Canadian citizens seeking entry or re-entry into the U.S. by air beginning January 23, 2007. It is anticipated that NEXUS membership also will be acceptable when the requirement is extended to land and sea travel. (Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection).

Car Rental

Avis Reportedly to Introduce WiFi

Autonet Mobile is reportedly going to supply Avis Rent-A-Car with WiFi hotspot technology for rental vehicles that will cost customers \$10.95 a day to use. Avis has not yet officially announced the agreement but says it will issue a statement soon. The technology is a portable router device that will retail for \$399 plus \$49 a month for those who buy it outright, Autonet Mobile said. The company unveiled its system at the CES International 2007 conference in Las Vegas this week, calling it "the first always-on broadband Internet service for cars. It plugs into a vehicle's power supply and hooks up notebook computers and PDAs to high-speed Internet. Autonet's WiFi is expected to work in all major cities and 95 percent of the rest of the United States, the company said. It added that the service is meant for passengers to use, not drivers, unless they're parked.

Hertz Expands PlatePass

Hertz has expanded PlatePass, an electronic toll payment system that allows renters to bypass back-ups at cash toll lanes, first introduced in the New York metropolitan area, Boston, Atlantic City, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. The PlatePass program enables customers to utilize "E-Z Pass" lanes through rentals of E-Z Pass toll tags. E-Z Pass is accepted on major toll roads throughout the Northeast corridor, from Virginia to Maine, including the Chesapeake Expressway in Virginia, the Pennsylvania Turnpike, New Jersey's Garden State Parkway and New Jersey Turnpike; the New York State Thruway, all toll bridges and tunnels into Manhattan, the Massachusetts Turnpike, the Maine Turnpike and the Illinois Tollway.

Hotels

TSA, Hyatt Launch Pilot Guest Access Program at DFW

The Transportation Security Administration has given the Grand Hyatt DFW, which adjoins Terminal D at DFW International Airport, authorization to implement a unique pilot program – Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport Access Authorization to Commercial Establishments Beyond the Screening Checkpoint Pilot Program (AAACE Program). TSA's AAACE Program gives qualifying hotel guests staying at the Grand Hyatt DFW an opportunity to proceed through security screening at Terminal D in order to gain access to the facility's specialty shops, restaurants and other commercial establishments. The AAACE Program is voluntary and is limited to only registered overnight guests at the Grand Hyatt DFW. Department of public safety officers will vet guests. (Source: Hyatt press release)



Spotlight on...

Airline Mergers

With US Airways proposing a merger with Delta Air Lines, United Airlines looking at Continental and AirTran seeking a merger with Midwest Airlines, some members of the business travel community are calling for the Department of Transportation and the Department of Justice to examine the consequences of airline mergers. The Business Travel Coalition, an advocacy group for business travelers, predicts "overwhelming competition problems." BTC chairman Kevin Mitchell says that the "market power of resultant, reconfigured global alliances with antitrust immunity could be stunning." The impact on business travel:

- ***Higher ticket prices as capacity is removed***
- ***Five major competing airlines become two***
- ***More mergers would follow***
- ***Mergers are short-term fixes that do not address systemic profitability problems of the airline industry***

(Source: BTC statement)