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For immediate release

Brunswick airport seeks second airline

A contingent of Glynn County airport and development officials recently visited U.S. Airways in Phoenix to propose the airline introduce scheduled air service between Brunswick Golden Isles Airport and Charlotte Douglas International Airport, the hub for U.S. Airways on the East Coast.

“This was just the first step in a long process toward getting a second airline to serve Brunswick,” said Steve Brian, executive director of the Glynn County Airport Commission. “But the good news is that the visit has gotten Brunswick on U.S. Airways’ expansion list of cities to analyze.”

The local contingent, which included Brian, Airport Commission Chairman Marie Dodd, and Brunswick & Glynn County Development Authority Executive Director Nathan Sparks, presented a strong case that the current level of air service does not meet the needs of the community’s growing, prosperous market. They noted that the annual travel market is estimated at 250,000 air travel trips, although the Brunswick airport is now serving only 20 percent of the market.

The group proposed that U.S. Airways serve the community with two round trips a day to the Charlotte hub on 50-passenger regional jets. From there, travelers could connect to 111 additional destinations.

“A consultant who traveled with us presented projected figures that showed U.S. Airways would make a profit with the two daily round trips,” Brian said.

“U.S. Airways’ concluding statement to our group was that Brunswick is the kind of community the airline has been successful in and would fit into their system at Charlotte as we proposed,” Brian said. “But they said Charlotte currently has capacity problems, and the airline also will need additional aircraft before it can expand into additional cities.”

The airport is funding the service initiative effort with funds from a federal Small Community Air Service Improvement grant. Also supporting the effort are the Brunswick & Glynn County Development Authority, the Brunswick Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce, and the Brunswick Golden Isles Convention and Visitors Bureau.

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<p>MEDIA CONTACT: Jett or Leslie Lamkin 912.638.9053 jett@lamkincommunications.com leslie@lamkincommunications.com</p>
