



June 26, 2020

Mr. Joel Szabat
Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Szabat:

The City of Morgantown, the Morgantown Municipal Airport, and the Morgantown community would like to thank you for the opportunity to review bids for an Essential Air Service (EAS) provider for the Mountaineer Region of West Virginia. A committee was assembled of representatives from the community, City, and Airport to review the proposals from the EAS bid conducted by the Department of Transportation. The committee was pleased with the bidders presented and would like to offer its recommendation.

The committee invited all three EAS bidders, Boutique Air, Cape Air, and Southern Airways Express, to Morgantown for an interview. The committee also interviewed an Alternate EAS provider, Regional Sky, to compare the differences between the Alternate EAS and the EAS proposals and presentations provided.

After viewing the presentations and aircraft from each bidder, the committee met to discuss the providers backgrounds, air carrier operations, safety performance, and service options offered by each bidder. After much discussion, the committee decided on the bidder providing the best opportunities for the Morgantown community.

The committee recommends utilizing Southern Airways Express with Option G providing air service to Washington DC and Charlotte, NC for the next two years, commencing on November 1, 2020. The connectivity provided by two airline hubs will provide the community with greater use of the National Transportation System by offering connections to hundreds of locations throughout the United States with only one connection, making ease of travel much easier for the community.

The committee and I would like to thank you for this opportunity and look forward to a service that will provide better air service connectivity for our growing community.

Best regards,

Jonathon Vrabel
Airport Director

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