

City of Greenville, Mississippi



Errick D. Simmons
Mayor

Office of the Mayor

City Council

Al Brock, Ward 1
Lois Hawkins, Ward 2
Vernon Greenlee, Ward 3
Lurann Thomas, Ward 4
Tasha Banks, Ward 5
James Wilson, Ward 6

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June 1, 2021

U. S. Department of Transportation
Attn: Michael F. Martin
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
W86-473
Washington, DC 20590

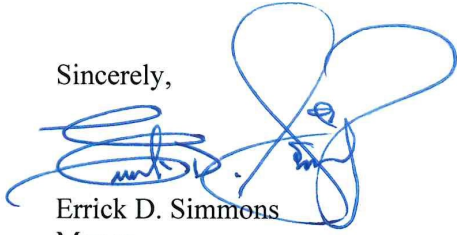
Dear Mr. Martin:

The City of Greenville, MS (City) thanks you for your guidance and assistance during our Essential Air Service (EAS) review for 2021. We have received and reviewed all four EAS proposals, along with a proposal by Contour Air for services via the Alternate EAS route. We have carefully considered each proposal with the providers and engaged in deliberate discussions with our Airport Director Sam Washington concerning whom we feel can provide the best service and potential for growth in the future.

The City Council has hereby voted unanimously to choose Contour Air as our provider and hereby make request to enter the Alternate EAS program. Contour Air's 30-seat ERJ—135 aircraft is quieter, flies higher and faster, and accommodates nearly four times the number of passengers per flight of each EAS competitor. This aircraft increases the available passenger seats from 144 per week to 360 per week. This, combined with Contour Air's competitive fares, will give even more citizens access to the air travel network at an affordable price; making Greenville a true travel hub for the Mississippi Delta. The AEAS proposal provides for a vastly superior product for *effectively the same subsidy* required to support traditional EAS proposals with 8/9-seat aircraft. Additionally, the order establishing alternate Essential Air Service states that the DOT "encourages proposals that have the greatest chance of increasing passenger usage".. This proposal does just that.

The Greenville Mid-Delta Airport is poised to bring a large business enterprise to the airport later this year. The ability to quickly and safely move passengers and potential employees by air is vital to the economic development plans for the Airport and for the City. We intend to send you our application for the Alternate EAS program right away and we look forward to working with your office to bring this program to our airport and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and flourishes, positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Errick D. Simmons
Mayor

cc: The Greenville City Council
Sam Washington, Airport Director
Amelia Wicks, City Clerk
Andy Alexander, City Attorney